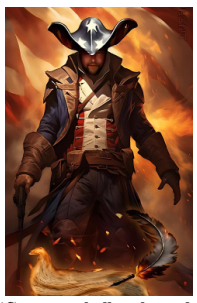

"Congress shall make no law..."

The Valley Patriot

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VOLUME 21, ISSUE 6
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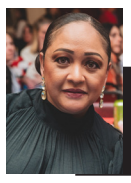

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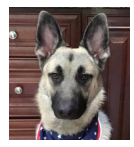

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VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

WWII Vet Asks Valley Patriot Readers: Please come have coffee with me!

John Cuddy
VETERAN COLUMNIST

The Valley Patriot recently interviewed Methuen Village Assisted Living resident Bob DuPont, who is a 98-year-old World War II veteran. Bob shared with the Valley Patriot a fascinating story of service to our Nation in Europe and the North Atlantic during World War II. Bob was raised with his three brothers in Cambridge Massachusetts. He was drafted into the US Army during the war, with only an 8th grade education, he served as a medic. His service in the US Army stretched from 1940 to 1944. Bob first was assigned to US Merchant Marine troop transports crossing the North Atlantic, bringing allied troops to North Africa, England, and later mainland Europe. Bob also served in Normandy, after the invasion, and then went on to serve as a US Army medic in both Italy and Africa.

As the only US Army medic assigned to his transport ship, while onboard, Bob lived in a private stateroom normally assigned to commissioned officers. Despite the comforts of a private state room on the ship, this was not a safe rear echelon duty assignment. Many of our U.S. Merchant Ships were either sunk or damaged in World War II. According to the US Merchant Marine's War Shipping Administration, our U.S. Merchant Marine Veterans suffered the highest rate of casualties of any service in World War II. Officially, a total of 1,554 ships were sunk due to war conditions, (enemy action) including 733 ships of over 1,000 gross tons. Hundreds of other ships were damaged by torpedoes, shelling, bombs, kamikazes, mines, etc. Foreign flag ships, especially those with US Naval Armed Guard on board, as well as ships belonging to U.S. territories such as the Philippines, are included in this list. Many other ships and men were lost due to accidents and other non-combat incidents, currently, no official "complete" vessel loss lists are available. The United States Department of Defense, (then called the War Department) sets the total at 1,768 ships sunk, damaged, captured or detained. Bob sailed the icy cold, North Atlantic on these ships. In the North Atlantic Teater of Operations, 979 of these transport ships were sunk, many by Nazi Germany's U-Boat Wolf Packs, operating in the European and American theaters of operations. Recreational Scuba divers today can dive wartime wrecks off the coast of Maine, Florida, and nearly all of the other Atlantic and Gulf Coast US States. The day before Germany surrendered, American warships quickly found Germany's U-853 and sank her

HERO: PAGE 26

Audit the Legislature, End the Secret Slush Funds!

Massachusetts State Auditor Diana DiZoglio has been on a personal mission since her days as a legislative aide on Beacon Hill back in 2011.

That mission is to hold lawmakers accountable for the money they spend, the backroom deals they make, and the secrets they keep from the voters they are supposed to serve.

To fully understand where DiZoglio is coming from, and why we need to support her initiatives, we first have to look at what happened back in 2011 that has become the driving force for DiZoglio's efforts.

Diana was once the legislative aide for Andover State Rep. Paul Adams, who hailed himself as a Christian conservative and a republican moralist. Adams was vocally troubled by the fact that his aide, (DiZoglio), was single, beautiful, and garnered a lot of unwanted attention from some of the lecherous good-old-boys on Beacon Hill. But, instead of being outraged by the behavior of his male colleagues who sexually harassed and abused DiZoglio on Beacon Hill, Adams was outraged at DiZoglio for daring to attract such attention.

Then, after fake stories made it to the Boston media about DiZoglio being involved with a sitting State Rep., (a story the Valley Patriot proved untrue) the sexual harassment against her by House members and other staffers grew to be intolerable.

Instead of having her back and seeing her as the victim of sexual predators, Paul Adams fired her. That's right, for being sexually harassed, and abused, Adams blamed her even commenting to members of the press about the way she dressed at work.

Before getting her final paycheck from the taxpayers, however, the Speaker of the House offered her a big severance package as long as she was willing to keep her mouth shut about what had occurred and who was involved. This is known as a non-disclosure agreement.

That money came from a secret slush fund in the legislature that nobody even knew existed. A slush fund that serves to silence the hundreds of women who had to tolerate sexual abuse and harassment on Beacon Hill, but also protects those who commit such acts, allowing them to keep doing what they want with no fear of the public, finding out about what they had done.

Since then, DiZoglio has been on a mission to audit and expose the secret slush funds in the legislature.

How much of the taxpayers' money have they spent to settle sex harassment and abuse claims while lecturing the rest of us about how much they "care about women?"

How many other secret slush funds exist on Beacon Hill?

Who exactly is involved?

The voters of Massachusetts MUST stand with Auditor DiZoglio in her efforts to get a ballot question passed to audit the legislature and get answers to these questions.

The public surely has the right to know!

It is your money! ◊

The Spreading Cancer

Ted Xenakis
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

America is an open society with a First Amendment guaranty for all of its citizens to engage in free speech, free religious worship and to peacefully assemble to air their grievances against the government.

These rights were deemed to be so essential to the newly formed republic that they were the first to be declared, and their declaration was bold and without any apology.

With the recent protests across America against Israel and its conduct of the war against Hamas, the governing authority of Gaza, the First Amendment needs to be examined closely to see if its purpose and protections are being subverted in an attempt to conceal an ugly undercurrent.

The text of the First Amendment reads as follows: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

The thrust of this amendment is to restrict the power of the government from infringing upon these sacred rights that belong to the People. These rights are not given by the government to the People. Rather, they are the rights that are inherent in any society where all men are created equal and have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The Founders believed that these rights emanated from God, even though they did not limit their concept of God to any particular religious thought or discipline. In their wisdom, they recognized that the People enjoyed these God given rights even if they didn't believe in God. Talk about a revolutionary concept!

This article, however, is more about "…the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

My focus here is not so much on what constitutes a peaceful protest as opposed to a violent one, but on who can be the object of that protest. Since the October 7th attack by Hamas on Israel, we have witnessed countless protests against Israel across college campuses and in the streets of America.

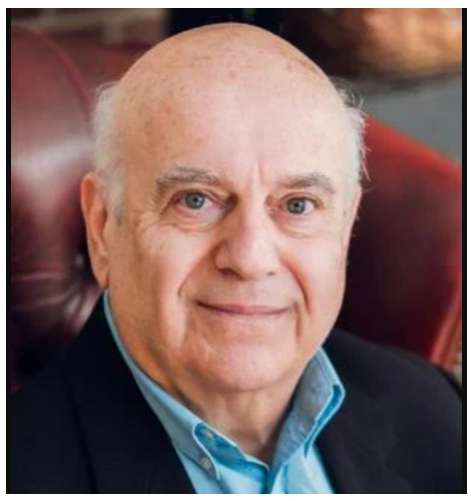
On the campuses, the protesters sought to force universities to divest any financial ties with Israel. To me, this agenda was a thinly veiled expression of antisemitism parading as outrage against Israel's war efforts that were equated with genocide. Our president and other democrat leaders (Chuck Schumer for one) castigated Israel for conducting its war efforts to destroy Hamas, and urged it to agree to a cease fire and settle for a two-state solution.

Forgetting for the moment America's 20-year war in Afghanistan after 9/11, the suggestion that Israel should allow Hamas to continue its rule of the Gaza Strip and agree to a two-state solution with this terrorist organization, was abundantly absurd and hypocritical. Typical of politicians who dictate foreign policy by how the political winds blow.

These protests metastasized from campuses to the streets of America and were aimed at Israel. Now remember, the right of the People to peaceably assemble is to bring grievances against our government. This right does not allow anyone to go onto your lawn and protest against you. Similarly, the protests on private college campuses did not enjoy First Amendment protection, yet college after college allowed them to occur, disrupting classes and threatening Jewish students.

Why?

As to those protests on the streets of America, have they been aimed at our government? I guess to the extent that America has been sending aid to Israel, one could argue that the pro-Palestinian



protests have been against America.

However, let's take a closer look at what happened last week in New York City. Last Monday, Jewish leaders planned a tribute to the 360 Israeli's who were slaughtered on October 7th while attending a music concert, where women were raped, and their bodies mutilated before they were dead.

The exhibit was set in Lower Manhattan and displayed "…items (camping gear, clothing) and structures (sound systems, bars) collected from the festival alongside video from before and during the festival taken by both

CANCER: PAGE 17

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MBTA Safety and Performance Audit

IN YOUR CORNER with AUDITOR DIZOGLIO

My Fellow Valley Patriot Readers,

My office just released a safety and performance audit report of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). This report is the first in a series of reports that my office will be releasing to examine safety and performance at the MBTA.

In 2007, the MBTA began employing internal customer service agents to serve as the initial points of contact within the MBTA system. These employees were responsible for answering questions, providing directions, assisting customers, and reporting maintenance hazards, safety concerns, and cleaning issues. Since 2018, customer service ambassadors, commonly found wearing red shirts in the stations, no longer work directly for the MBTA. This work is outsourced to the company Block by Block (BBB).

The audit revealed the MBTA failed to ensure that BBB completed visual station checks (safety inspections) on time, 94% of the time. Furthermore, the MBTA did not ensure that all appropriate BBB employees received training on operations and safety before being assigned to subway station locations.

Ineffective management by the MBTA of its contract with BBB increases the risk that safety hazards and maintenance needs will not be identified in a timely manner, affecting the safety of the MBTA's riders, employees, and subway stations. Sending employees into the field without proper training increases safety risks for the public, stations, and the employees themselves.

The Taxpayer Protection Act (TPA) requires that before outsourcing public work, as was done in this case, evidence must be provided that services will be of the same or better quality, at a savings to the taxpayer. This contract, however, was executed by the prior Administration during a loophole period in which the TPA did not apply, and thus was never a subject to a review for efficiency and cost-savings. While the T indicated interest in "moving towards active contract management," there is little evidence the T adequately improved contract management or performance in service to the public. Riders, taxpayers and employees deserve better management of a contract worth tens of millions of their public dollars.

The Office of the State Auditor will follow up in six months and encourages MBTA management to expeditiously take corrective measures.

We will continue conducting reviews that dive into the performance and service delivery of the MBTA. If you have any questions about the audit report we just released, or any other audit report produced by my office, please always feel free to reach out at Auditor@massauditor.gov.

Yours in service,

Diana ◊

Why Join a Political Party?

Kevin Dube
CHAIR, NORTH ANDOVER GOP COMMITTEE

With the first Presidential debate in the books, I noticed a trend on social media. Many people were complaining they didn't care for either candidate. "Is this the best we can do?" was a frequent type of comment.

This is nothing new, it is a comment I've heard as long as I've been involved in politics. People show up to the polls, or watch a debate, and ask "why are these the candidates I get to pick from?" There is, in fact, a very good reason for this.

The largest growth in party affiliation is "unenrolled," meaning people that don't belong to any party. In just the last 3 years here in North Andover the percentage of unenrolled voters went up 5% from 63% to 68%. During those 3 years the total number of registered voters increased by 1,512, and the total number of unenrolled voters increased by 2,063. That represents a 15% increase in the number of unenrolled voters while every other party, even the minor ones, lost voters in both real numbers and as a percentage of those registered.

The reason for this drop in party enrollment is clear; people are unhappy with the partisan nature of both parties. However, this becomes a self-reinforcing cycle. As people leave the parties, the parties become more calcified in their ideology, which leads to more people leaving the parties, rinse and repeat. The solution to this problem is equally clear; people need to join and engage with the parties more!

Both major parties, Republican and Democrat, follow the same structure here in MA. This structure is outlined in law, specifically chapter 52 of the Mass General Laws. Each town and each ward in every city has a committee consisting of up to 35 members. Statewide there are 80 elected members of the state committee for each party consisting of one man and one woman for each of our 40 state senate districts. The local committees are responsible for recruiting local activists and helping candidates get elected to office. The state committee members are responsible for being liaisons to the local committees and the state party. The State committee also elects the state chairperson and the national committee man and woman that work to drive the national party. Long before you have seen a name on a ballot these are the people that have worked to recruit and promote those candidates.

I'd be remiss if I didn't point out that while the Republican State committee only consists of the 80 elected members, the Democrat State Committee has over 400 members. The law allows for the parties to choose the composition of their respective committees. Much as the national Dem party has "super delegates" at their convention to make sure the Presidential candidate they want gets in, likewise the Mass. Dems have packed their state committee with members, many unelected, to dilute the will of the voters. This is the party that screams about protecting democracy?

Regardless which side of the political spectrum you fall on, I urge you to join a party and get involved if you want to see real change. That said, given that the Democrats hold supermajorities in the Massachusetts government, as well as the anti-democratic policies I've pointed out above, your voice will carry far further in the Republican Party. Ready to get involved? Send me an email @ northandovergop@gmail.com. ◊

Bail - Illegal Alien in the Wind

Anne Manning-Martin
CANDIDATE - GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL

The recent release on $500 bail and subsequent flight of migrant Cory Alvarez, alleged to have raped a disabled child by force, highlights a little known but serious problem in our judicial system: when a judge is appointed to the court, he or she sits on both civil cases and criminal cases, whether or not they have ever had prior experience in the criminal arena. In this instance, the Alvarez judge was a very experienced attorney in the civil arena, but she was woefully unqualified to make bail decisions, and made a terrible error in this case. The public suffers greatly when attorneys, who have devoted their entire careers to non-criminal legal matters, ascend to the bench. The public cannot continue to suffer through what can only be viewed as on-the-job training—the stakes are simply too high as we have witnessed.

This travesty was predictable also because the ALL-Democrat Governor's Council, many of whom were criminal defense attorneys ENCOURAGED her to be lenient in bail hearings and at sentencing. During the vetting process, this judge, then nominee, told the Council what they wanted to hear - that she would exercise her discretion and not be "victim driven" in bail hearings which is exactly what we saw play out in the cut and run of migrant Cory Alvarez last week in Brockton Superior Court. To the public's dismay, her sympathy for an unknown alleged assailant outweighed her duty to protect the public as she failed to take into consideration several essential requirements for bail - the abject depravity of the crime for which he was charged, the accused's lack of family ties, and the short nature of his presence in the community.

This judge is not the first to have made glaringly apparent accommodations so that migrants may avoid ICE detention requests, most publicized being the judge who allowed an alleged criminal to escape out the back door of the courthouse to avoid ICE officers.

It is up to the Governor's Council, as the only check on the Governor's unbridled discretion and authority to nominate judges, to vet judicial nominees thoroughly to ensure that the bench is not philosophically opposed to detaining dangerous migrant criminals, as is trending. The Superior Court was meant to be the gateway to justice for victims but because the Governor's Council is not living up to its obligation to provide this check on executive power, the courts are not living up to their obligation either.

When this alleged child rapist was first charged, Governor Maura Healy declared "we need to let our criminal justice system to do its work." Now the public must demand better from its elected Governor's Council – they must demand they DO THEIR JOB and protect the public!

Anne Manning-Martin
37 Dexter St. Peabody MA
Peabody City Councilor and Republican nominee for Governor's Council District 5
978-531-7539 ◊

Massachusetts Senate Takes Bold Action to Address Housing Crisis

Pavel Payano
STATE SENATOR, 1ST ESSEX DISTRICT

In a decisive move aimed at tackling Massachusetts' ongoing housing crisis, the Massachusetts Senate has unanimously passed S.2834, also known as the Affordable Homes Act. This legislation marks a significant step forward in addressing housing affordability, availability, and equity across the state.

The Affordable Homes Act is a multifaceted initiative that combines $5.4 billion in funding with substantial policy reforms. Its primary objectives include the construction of new housing units, expedited rehabilitation of existing housing stock, reduction of development barriers, and promotion of affordable housing initiatives. These measures are designed to alleviate the pressures that have contributed to Massachusetts' housing shortage and escalating costs.

Thanks to the support of Senate President Karen Spilka, Chair of Senate Ways and Means Michael Rodrigues, and Housing Chair Lidia Edwards for supporting one of the amendments that I successfully championed. Amendment #168 secured enhancements to Massachusetts' Chapter 40R program. Initially enacted in 2004, Chapter 40R incentivizes municipalities to adopt smart growth zoning, encouraging compact residential and mixed-use development. The amendment, which passed with overwhelming support, includes substantial updates to the program's financial incentives to better align with current economic realities and inflation. Specifically, it nearly doubles the one-time incentive payment and raises the bonus payment per new housing unit from $3,000 to $6,000.

40R has had successful implementations in Haverhill, where smart growth initiatives revitalized the central business district and repurposed mill spaces into housing units. Originally, these efforts resulted in significant 40R incentive payments, but inflation had diminished their impact over the years. With the passage of the amendment, Massachusetts aims to empower more municipalities to zone for affordable and dense housing, fostering vibrant communities statewide without requiring additional state funding.

Key Provisions of the Affordable Homes Act

The Affordable Homes Act addresses various aspects of the housing crisis through targeted investments and policy reforms:

1. Public Housing Rehabilitation: Allocates $2.2 billion for repairs and upgrades to state-aided public housing, ensuring safer and more sustainable living conditions for thousands of families. A portion of this funding, $150 million, is earmarked for energy-efficient upgrades to align with the state's climate goals.
2. Affordable Housing Initiatives: Includes $425 million for the Housing Stabilization and Investment Trust fund, supporting the preservation, construction, and rehabilitation of affordable rental units. An additional $800 million is allocated to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to create and maintain housing for households earning up to 110% of the area median income.
3. Sustainable Building Practices: Dedicates $275 million to promote innovative and environmentally friendly housing construction methods, contributing to Massachusetts' efforts to combat climate change.
4. Support for First-Time Homebuyers: Authorizes $200 million for the CommonWealth Builder program, aimed at increasing homeownership opportunities in gateway cities. This initiative not only fosters economic growth but also revitalizes urban areas.
5. Infrastructure Investment: Provides $375 million for HousingWorks, which supports essential infrastructure improvements necessary for new housing developments. This includes addressing water, sewer, and septic challenges, as well as incentivizing best practices in transit-oriented development communities.
6. Equity and Fairness: Introduces policy measures such as tenant protection from broker fees, the establishment of equity-focused housing offices, eviction record sealing for certain cases, and the promotion of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in residential zones. These initiatives aim to enhance housing stability, promote fairness in real estate transactions, and expand housing options.

With separate versions of the Affordable Homes Act passed by both the Senate and the House of Representatives, the next step involves reconciling differences between the two branches before final enactment. The Act represents a substantial commitment by Massachusetts to address its housing challenges comprehensively and inclusively.

Please feel free to email me at pavel.payano@masenate.gov ◊

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MIDDLESEX PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

DOCKET # M124D0909DR

MARIA DEL RIO
VS.
ESMEURY RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ

MIDDLESEX PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
10-U COMMERCE WAY
WOBURN, MA 01801

Upon motion of plaintiff for an order directing the defendant to appear, plead, or answer Mass. R. Rom. Rel P. Rule 4 it appearing to the court that this is an action for divorce 1B

Pursuant to Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411, an Automatic Restraining Order has been entered against the above-named parties. Defendant cannot be found within the Commonwealth and his/her present whereabouts unknown. Personal service on defendant is therefore not practicable, and defendant has not voluntarily appeared in this action.

It is Ordered that defendant is directed to appear, plead, answer, or otherwise move with respect to the complaint herein or before July 22, 2024.

If you fail to do so this Court will proceed to a hearing and adjudication on this matter. It is further ORDERED that the accompanying summons be published once in the Valley Patriot Newspaper to be published

The Plaintiff has filed a complaint for Divorce requesting that the court grant a divorce for irretrievable breakdown.

This complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic restraining order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411

WITNESS, Hom. Terri L. Klug Cafazzo,
First Justice of this court
Date: June 10, 2024

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North Andover, MA 01845

Luz Paulino, (42) of Lawrence Pleads Guilty to Bank Fraud and $2.1M COVID Relief Fraud

BOSTON – A Lawrence woman pleaded guilty yesterday in federal court in Boston to separate fraudulent schemes that targeted banks and the Small Business Administration (SBA).

Luz Paulino, 42, pleaded guilty to one count of bank fraud conspiracy, one count of bank fraud, two counts of wire fraud and two counts of aggravated identity theft. United States District Judge Richard G. Stearns scheduled sentencing for Oct. 9, 2024.

Paulino was initially charged by criminal complaint in December 2019 and subsequently indicted by a federal grand jury in January 2021. While on pretrial release, Paulino fled the United States and remained a fugitive for 19 months before Panamanian authorities returned her to the United States.

Paulino owned and operated Agape Financial Services, a Lowell-based company that provided tax preparation and notary services. In early 2020, Paulino filed false and fraudulent federal tax returns for calendar year 2019 using the stolen identities, names and Social Security numbers of individual victims. The fraudulent tax returns reported false information regarding wages, employers and dependents, among other things, to claim tax refunds. To conceal her involvement, Paulino falsely represented to the IRS that the returns had been prepared by two former employees of Agape. Paulino then used the fraudulent returns to obtain Refund Advance Loans in the names of her victims, and then cashed the loan checks using false identification documents and forged signatures.

Paulino also used stolen identities of individuals living in California, Michigan, Indiana and elsewhere to apply to the SBA for $2.1 million in COVID-19 Emergency Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL). Between June 2020 and October 2021, Paulino's false applications listed fictitious companies that purportedly suffered lost revenues during the pandemic. She used the fraudulently obtained loan proceeds to purchase a 2020 Cadillac for $86,000 and to wire more than $395,000 to a jewelry business in the Dominican Republic, among other expenditures.

The charges of bank fraud conspiracy and bank fraud each provide for a sentence of up to 30 years in prison, five years of supervised release, a fine of $1 million, restitution and forfeiture. The charges of wire fraud each provide for a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, three years of supervised release, a fine of $250,000, restitution and forfeiture. The charges of aggravated identity theft each provide for a mandatory sentence of two years in prison to be served consecutively to any other sentence imposed, up to one year of supervised release and a fine of $250,000. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and statutes which govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case.

Acting United States Attorney Joshua S. Levy; Jodi Cohen, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Field Division; Harry Chavis, Jr., Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service's Criminal Investigations; and Melix Bonilla, Acting Chief of the Lawrence Police Department made the announcement today. Assistant U.S. Attorney Victor A. Wild of the Securities, Financial & Cyber Fraud Unit is prosecuting the case.

On May 17, 2021, the Attorney General established the COVID-19 Fraud Enforcement Task Force to marshal the resources of the Department of Justice in partnership with agencies across government to enhance efforts to combat and prevent pandemic-related fraud. The Task Force bolsters efforts to investigate and prosecute the most culpable domestic and international criminal actors and assists agencies tasked with administering relief programs to prevent fraud by augmenting and incorporating existing coordination mechanisms, identifying resources and techniques to uncover fraudulent actors and their schemes, and sharing and harnessing information and insights gained from prior enforcement efforts. For more information on the department's response to the pandemic, please visit Justice.gov/Coronavirus and Justice.gov/Coronavirus/CombatingFraud.

Anyone with information about allegations of attempted fraud involving COVID-19 can report it by calling the Department of Justice's National Center for Disaster Fraud (NCDF) Hotline via the NCDF Web Complaint Form. ◊

HEART OF THE VALLEY ~ Community In Roads

Katie Cook
VALLEY PATRIOT CHARITY COLUMNIST

This month's Heart of The Valley Highlight is a unique organization that helps strengthen our area's nonprofits by cultivating a collaborative network of volunteers dedicated to enriching the lives of Greater Lawrence and Haverhill residents.

Community In Roads programs and services started as volunteer professional match making & board education and has expanded to include educational and leadership programs, and a Grant Resource Center in partnership with Northern Essex Community College. Their services include Board Tune Ups, Executive Round Tables, Cultural Inclusion Programs, Workshops, and Consulting of Skills Based Volunteer. Community In Roads serves as a majorly underutilized resource in the Merrimack Valley.

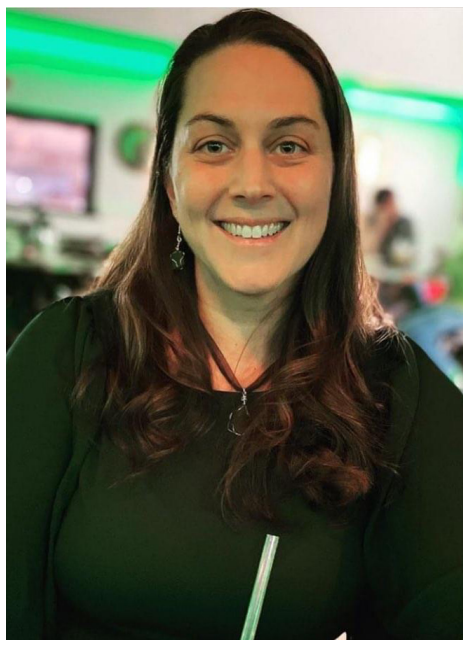
I first met executive director Joan Kulash and program director Lysbeth Noyes when I was sitting on a local board. They were brought in for a Board Tune Up and I was blown away at the strategic planning education and positive motivation for the board members. Board Roles to Board Goals service pairs the nonprofit board with a trained facilitator who walks the board through a step-by-step process that capitalizes on the board member's talents, gets board members working as a team to develop shared governance goals for the year, and focuses the board on their board duties. This includes services like customized training on the roles of a board, strategic planning, board retreats, and personal coaching for Executive Directors and Board Chairs. My personal experience of them helping to develop an improvement plan, supporting the implementation of the plan and helping to evaluate the execution is why I chose them as one of the first non-profits I wanted to highlight in my column.

The Community In roads team also facilitates different board positions "monthly round tables," including an Executive Director, Board Chair, Board Development (Fundraising), and CFO Monthly Round Table. Each of these meetings focuses on best practices, workshops and often includes dynamic speakers. These Executive Round Tables provide a venue for nonprofit executive directors, CFOs, and board chairs in Lawrence and Haverhill to network and learn from one another. Its overall purpose is to cultivate a strong network of nonprofit organizations that work collaboratively for the greater good of the Merrimack Valley. For more information about attending an Executive Roundtable, email Joan.

The Cultural Inclusion Program for Nonprofit Boards helps the growing wave of young, savvy professionals of color who have a rich understanding of the community and possess the necessary skills and passion to assume leadership roles on our nonprofit boards. This program helps to recruit, train, place, and engage new board members who have the professional skills needed by boards and reflect the culture of the community. This is a 9-month program that not only trains and matches individuals and boards but follows along to ensure a successful match. This program is by application only for a Fall start. They are taking applications for 2025.

Community In Roads partners with many different area organizations and individuals to provide free, quality workshops in Lawrence on important topics surrounding nonprofit management. Past workshops have included events like Legacy Planning, Outcome Measurements, Becoming a 501c3, The New Form 990 and Risk Management Plans for Nonprofits. They are always looking for new fresh topic ideas. If you have an idea or a topic you specialize in and are willing to host (lead) a one-time workshop to help strengthen our area non-profits, please reach out to Joan.

The program I am most impressed with and see the most opportunity for our readers to help give back to the Merrimack Valley is the Consulting of Skills Based Volunteer. The pro bono consulting services match the professional skills of the local business community with the back office needs



of our area nonprofits. Consulting projects are short-term, customized to our nonprofits' needs, and free, thanks to the businessmen and women, like you, who volunteer their talents so graciously. Volunteer services include skills like Strategic planning, Marketing and public relations, Human Resources, Finance and accounting (quick books), Computer technology, Web design, Social Media, Graphic design and Development (Fundraising). If you have professional skills and have short term time to give, this might be an amazing opportunity for you to contribute to our community. The matching process is heavily supported

CHARITIES: PAGE 9

Feds Only Sentence Middleton Corrections Officer to Probation for Smuggling Narcotics Into Prison

Officer was involved in multi-state cocaine and fentanyl conspiracy

BOSTON – A former Corrections Officer was sentenced to probation yesterday in federal court in Boston for his role in a large-scale drug trafficking conspiracy involving cocaine, fentanyl and other controlled substances.

Gregorit Sanchez, 29, of Haverhill was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Angel Kelley to five years' probation with the first year to be served on home detention. The court determined that Sanchez's Guidelines Sentencing Range under the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines was 30-37 months in prison.

The government recommended a sentence of 30 months in prison to be followed by three years of supervised release. In March 2024, Sanchez pleaded guilty to one count each of conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute fentanyl, cocaine and other controlled substances and possession with intent to distribute fentanyl, cocaine and other controlled substances.

In December 2021, Sanchez was charged along with 20 other individuals.

Sanchez was a Corrections Officer with the Middleton House of Correction in Middleton, Mass. On Nov. 11, 2021, Sanchez attempted to smuggle a package containing fentanyl, cocaine, Suboxone and other contraband into the Middleton House of Correction for co-defendant Elvis DeJesus, who was being held in the Middleton House of Correction after his arrest on state firearms charges.

DeJesus intended to distribute the drugs inside the jail. Sanchez was stopped as he arrived to work at the jail and the package was seized. The package contained 33 grams of fentanyl pills, 1 gram of crack cocaine, 14 grams of powder cocaine, and Suboxone sublingual films, as well as cigarettes and a SIM card for a contraband cellphone that Sanchez had previously procured for DeJesus and that DeJesus used to coordinate drug distribution from inside the jail.

DeJesus pleaded guilty in June 2024 and is scheduled to be sentenced on Oct. 15, 2024.

The charges of conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute fentanyl, cocaine and other controlled substances, and possession with intent to distribute fentanyl, cocaine, and other controlled substances provide for a sentence of up to 20 years in prison and at least three years and up to a lifetime of supervised release. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

This operation is part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) Strike Force Initiative, which provides for the establishment of permanent multi-agency task force teams that work side-by-side in the same location.

This co-located model enables agents from different agencies to collaborate on intelligence-driven, multi-jurisdictional operations to disrupt and dismantle the most significant drug traffickers, money launderers, gangs, and transnational criminal organizations. More information on the OCDETF program is available here: https://www.justice.gov/ocdetf/about-ocdetf.

Acting United States Attorney Joshua S. Levy; Michael J. Krol, Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations in New England; and Stephen Belleau, Acting Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration, New England Field Office made the announcement. Special assistance was provided by the Lawrence Police Department; U.S. Postal Inspection Service; Massachusetts State Police; Federal Bureau of Investigations; and Essex County Sheriff's Office. Assistant U.S. Attorney Katherine Ferguson, Deputy Chief of the Narcotics & Money Laundering Unit, is prosecuting the case.

The details contained in the charging documents are allegations. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law. ◊

Legislature Was Very Active Last Month

Estela Reyes
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

June declares the official start of summer, and in the Massachusetts State House, the beginning of the end of Session. This month the House passed significant pieces of legislation which will be of great benefit to the residents of this state. Continue reading as I dive into two major bills, the Housing Bond bill and the Economic Development bill, which both had big wins for the 4th Essex District.

Early in June, the State House Representatives gathered to debate the Housing Bond Bill, formally named An Act relative to the Affordable Homes Act. This $6.5 billion bond bill is the largest housing investment in Massachusetts history. It includes bond authorizations, tax credits, and policy initiatives that promote housing production, facilitate the development of affordable housing, and preserve public housing.

Massachusetts is in an undeniable housing crisis that the House is working to overcome. A piece of this packed bill that I will highlight is the multi-million-dollar program that will help municipalities convert commercial properties into multi-unit residential or mixed-use properties. And after completion of the project, sponsors will be eligible for a tax credit on the developmental costs. The Housing Bond bill also allocates a large sum of money to support alternative forms of rental housing to better respond to needs such as homelessness and housing for seniors or veterans. A portion of that amount is preserved for housing for those who qualify as low-income. Investing in housing is necessary, and I am proud of the advocacy from my community and colleagues to make it happen.

At the end of the month the House passed the Economic Development bill, H.4789 An Act relative to strengthening Massachusetts' economic leadership. This bill is packed with bond authorizations and tax credits which will promote growth, innovation, and longevity in Massachusetts' economy.

I am proud to share that the 4th Essex District secured impressive funding for the preservation of roads and historic landmarks, for small business loans, and for programs to create jobs. In total, millions of dollars in bonds will be allocated to the two municipalities I represent. Acquiring this funding is monumental for Lawrence and Methuen. I am honored to be trusted with the responsibility of representing two booming cities and will continue to push for cash to be brought into these well-deserving communities. It is reassuring to have my confidence in my community backed by our State Legislature.

In other June news, I want to acknowledge the gracious fathers and the hardworking graduates. Father's Day is a special time to celebrate our lineage and loved ones. The graduates I have celebrated this month, of all ages, continue to impress me with their knowledge, skills, and hunger for life. I cannot wait to see these individuals bring their expertise back to our community to continue growing together.

Lastly, Happy Pride Month! I want to acknowledge all of the LGBTQ+ members of our community and celebrate their presence here. I see you and I support you. I am thankful to represent a leading state in the nation for LGBTQ+ rights, but there is still more work to be done.

As always, please reach out to estela.reyes@mahouse.gov with any questions, comments, or concerns. Thank you for reading the Valley Patriot! ◊

Creating a Brighter Future for Our Community

Francisco Paulino
STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 16TH ESSEX

As I reflect on the power of community and the impact we can have on each other's lives, I am reminded that investing in our youth is one of the most critical investments we can make. By providing them with the tools and opportunities they need to succeed, we are shaping not just their futures, but our collective wellbeing.

Our office has secured a significant bond bill amendment amounting to $650,000 for Helfrich Brothers Boiler Works, Inc.

This amendment, passed under the Economic Development House Bill 4789 by the Massachusetts House of Representatives, will enable Helfrich Brothers to establish an in-house welding academy. Imagine the impact this will have on our local youth!

This initiative will train them in a high-demand, well-paying trade, paving the way for a brighter future.

Helfrich Brothers has a long-standing, 50-year partnership with Greater Lawrence Vocational School, offering invaluable training and mentorship to students pursuing careers in engineering, machining, welding, and fabrication.

In addition, we have secured $500,000 for Northern Essex Community College through the same bond bill. These funds will create a pathway for high school students to earn an LPN certificate while completing their high school diploma through early college programs.

What does this mean for our community?

Good-paying job opportunities and a solution to the critical nurse shortage.

As these funds move through the conference committee for final review, I am optimistic about the positive impact they will have on our community. We are not just investing in infrastructure; we are investing in our youth and our future.

I am also proud to share that two critical bills I drafted and filed have received favorable reports out of committee:

House Bill 1931: Ensures timely and convenient wage payments through various methods, including electronic fund transfers and payroll cards, without passing costs onto employees.

House Bill 3636: Mandates minority recruitment and selection programs for law enforcement agencies to reflect the diversity of our community, with comprehensive reporting and monitoring requirements.

Together, we can create a future for the 16th Essex District that resonates with the laughter of our children and fulfills our shared dreams. Let's continue building a community where our aspirations and values can flourish.

Thank you for your ongoing support and trust. It is an honor to serve as your State Representative, and I look forward to continuing our work together for the betterment of Lawrence and Methuen.

Francisco E. Paulino

State Representative, 16th Essex District ◊

New Selectman Sponsors Hate Speech in Dracut

EYE ON DRACUT

By Brian Genest
VALLEY PATRIOT DRACUT COLUMNIST

It didn't take long for Selectman Josh Taylor to show his true colors. As a candidate, Josh Taylor claimed he'd be "independent." As a selectman, he's already proven to be anything but.

Josh Taylor has quickly aligned himself with the most negative and nasty voices in our community.

That alignment was on display after Josh Taylor's very first meeting as a selectman. According to the Lowell Sun, John Taylor's buddy and supporter, former Selectman John Zimini, was waiting for him after that meeting, to discuss his vote to buy the Proper Farm on Broadway Road from John Brox. The paper said John Zimini was in a "huff" and that he "berated" Josh Taylor after the meeting.

Apparently, they've patched things up. Now, Josh Taylor has started sponsoring John Zimini's cable television show, a local version of Wayne's World with a similar level of maturity and cast of characters. A washed-up political has-been, John Zimini spends the waning days of his twilight launching personal attacks on town employees, elected officials, their family and friends, business owners, and private citizens. For years, John Zimini has used his cable TV "shows" as a political weapon without any consequences, so far, from Comcast, DATV, or the ratepayers who fund his warped smear campaigns.

John Zimini calls people sleazy, corrupt, and many other things. He talks about back room deals, political patronage, and insider politics.

His hypocrisy is stunning. Remember when John Zimini, then a Dracut selectman, was included in a flurry of news articles in the Boston press in January 2012?

He'd probably like you to forget.

Google "John Zimini" and you'll find a bunch of published reports about his dealings with former Lt. Governor Tim Murray and former Chelsea Housing Authority Executive Director Mike McLaughlin, one of his friends who went to federal prison.

In the Boston Herald, Howie Carr wrote a column about Tim Murray's ever-changing story about his 108-mile-per-hour crash, that said "Then there are his shifting stories about the aforementioned Mike McLaughlin. He knew him well enough to obtain a hack job for his son (who has since been fired) and for a friend, one John Zimini, who has likewise been booted from the public trough."

According to an expose in the Boston Globe, "McLaughlin reveled in his proximity to power, say his former employees, and the help he could get from the lieutenant governor. Murray once angrily called former labor secretary Suzanne Bump when she fired one of McLaughlin's old friends, John Zimini, according to someone who was briefed about the call. Murray later helped Zimini find a new job at a quasi-public state agency. In addition, Murray recommended people to housing authority boards on McLaughlin's word, giving McLaughlin added clout." (You can read it here: https://www.boston.com/news/local-news/2012/01/21/mclaughlin-raised-money-for-murray-employees-say/)

RedMass Group published campaign contributions from OCPF records showing that John Zimini, his wife Kristin and his daughter Alyssa each donated $500 to Tim Murray shortly before John Zimini was hired at MassHousing in 2010. It sure doesn't sound like John Zimini's hiring was a coincidence or the result of a nationwide search!

Speaking of housing, don't forget the scandal at the Dracut Housing Authority and the 217 phone calls between John Zimini and Mike McLaughlin. (You can read it here: https://www.lowellsun.com/2012/02/05/dracut-housing-officials-face-calls-to-step-down-over-mclaughlin-ties/) According to the Sun, "Zimini did not return multiple calls seeking comment for this story." John Zimini has plenty to say, except when it comes to answering news reporters about his own alliances and dealings, apparently.

Meanwhile, John Zimini continues to spew toxic venom on social media and his cable tv show. Now, that hate speech against town citizens is being paid for by Dracut's newest selectman.

Josh Taylor isn't independent. He's a political shill and a hypocrite. And he should be ashamed of himself for lying to the voters and for funding John Zimini's vicious tirades. Dracut deserves better.

-- Brian Genest is the producer and host of Eye On Dracut, winner of the Hometown Media Award for News, sponsored by Lucky Oil. ◊

Grand Opening of LeadHumano Collective:

A Beacon of Leadership Development in North Andover

A new era of leadership development has dawned in North Andover with the grand opening of the LeadHumano Collective, a pioneering institute dedicated to empowering businesses through coaching and training. The ribbon-cutting ceremony, held in conjunction with the Merrimack Chamber of Commerce on Monday, June 3rd, marked a momentous occasion for the local business community.

Located at 800 Turnpike St., Suite 300, TheLeadHumano Collective stands as a resource for organizations seeking to enhance their people's capabilities and drive success through effective leadership. At its helm is Luz Frazier, a seasoned Senior HR Executive with over 20 years of invaluable experience in guiding businesses towards prosperity by harnessing the potential of their workforce.

Luz Frazier's expertise in human resources and her unwavering commitment to helping businesses achieve success through their people make her the driving force behind The LeadHumano Collective's mission. With a passion for nurturing talent, fostering growth, and cultivating leadership skills, Luz brings a wealth of knowledge and insight to the institute.

The LeadHumano Collective promises to be a transformative force in the realm of leadership development, offering tailored coaching programs and training sessions designed to unlock the full potential of individuals and teams. By focusing on building strong, resilient leaders, businesses gain improved organizational performance and long-term success. Strong leadership drives productivity, employee engagement and loyalty, innovation, and overall business growth.

The LeadHumano Collective aims to pave the way for sustainable business growth and long-term success.

As the doors of The LeadHumano Collective swing open, a new chapter in leadership excellence begins for North Andover and beyond. Businesses looking to elevate their performance, drive innovation, and cultivate a culture of success are invited to embark on a transformative journey with the guidance of Luz Frazier and her team at LeadHumano Collective.

For more information on LeadHumano Collective and their range of leadership development services, visit their office at 800 Turnpike St. or contact them at Lfrazier@leadhumano.com or via office number 978 689-0282.

Join us in celebrating The LeadHumano Collective – where the power of leading human propels the success of businesses. ◊

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House Passive Massive Borrowing Measures

Ryan Hamilton
STATE REP., HAVERHILL/METHUEN

I hope everyone enjoyed the Fourth of July. It's always a great time to celebrate America's birthday with family and friends.

This past month, the House has been busy. In this edition of the Valley Patriot, I will discuss two significant pieces of legislation the House passed. The first one is the housing bond bill. As we have seen, housing in the Merrimack Valley has increased substantially over the past ten years. And the housing stock has dwindled, making a difficult for first-time homebuyers to purchase a home or older people to downsize from their current homes.

The house was moved to address this to make it easier for our young people to afford a and for older people to downsize into a more practical home that fits their needs.

The housing bond bill. Also known as "An Act relative to the Affordable Homes Act," which includes $6.5 billion in bond authorizations, tax credits, and over 20 policy initiatives that promote housing production, facilitate the development of affordable housing, and preserve public housing in Massachusetts.

"The bill includes a new $150 million program to help municipalities convert commercial properties into multi-unit residential or mixed-use properties. After project completion, project sponsors would be eligible for a tax credit of up to 10 percent of the development costs.

The bill also includes a new tax credit to incentivize the production of homeownership units targeting households with incomes of up to 120 percent of the area median income (AMI). Additionally, the bill makes permanent the Community Investment Tax Credit (CITC) while expanding the statewide cap on donations from $12 million to $15 million, and extends the sunset of the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit through December 31, 2030, while increasing the total available amount from $55 million to $110 million."

"Bond authorizations include:

Public housing

• $2 billion to support the repair, rehabilitation, and modernization of over 43,000 public housing units across Massachusetts, with 25 percent of the funds dedicated to preserve housing for those with incomes below 30 percent AMI. $150 million to decarbonize the public housing stock and $15 million for accessibility upgrades

• $200 million to support Local Housing Authorities (LHAs) who partner with developers to add mixed-income developments on LHA land, leveraging funds to maintain and preserve public housing while increasing the overall housing supply

Housing vulnerable populations

• $200 million to support innovative and alternative forms of rental housing including single person occupancy (SPO) units, transitional and permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness, housing for seniors and veterans, and transitional units for persons recovering from substance use disorder. 25 percent of funds must be used to fund projects that preserve housing for those with incomes below 30 percent AMI

• $70 million to support the development of appropriate community-based housing for Department of Mental Health (DMH) and Department of Developmental Services (DDS) clients

• $60 million to modify homes of individuals or families with disabilities or seniors so that they may maintain residency or return home from institutional settings

• $55 million to support appropriate housing for people with disabilities who are not DMH or DDS clients

• $20 million to establish a veterans supportive housing program to develop and preserve supportive housing for veterans and their families experiencing homelessness, including wraparound services

Housing development

• $800 million for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund which provides resources to create or preserve affordable housing for households earning less than 100 percent of AMI

• $250 million to accelerate the development of mixed-income multifamily housing

• $200 million for the Workforce Housing Fund which funds housing development for households earning less than 120 percent of AMI

• $100 million for the Commonwealth Builder program for the construction of affordable single-family homes for households earning between 70 and 120 percent of AMI, primarily in Gateway Cities

• $50 million for the acquisition, rehabilitation, and sale of distressed properties

• $50 million to create a new Healthy Home program to provide grants and loans for programs to make homes habitable. Half of all funds are to be administered to owners of buildings in Gateway municipalities

• $10 million to facilitate affordable housing production in Gateway municipalities

HousingWorks

• $425 million to support preservation, new construction, and rehabilitation projects through the Housing Stabilization Fund and the Community Investment and Preservation Fund

• $275 million to consolidate the existing Transit Oriented Housing Program and the Climate Resilient Housing Program and create a new, innovative program to accelerate and unlock new housing. 25 percent of the funds must be used to fund projects which preserve housing for those with incomes below 60 percent of AMI

• $175 million for municipal infrastructure projects to encourage denser housing development

• $50 million to provide payments to municipalities that receive a Housing Choice designation through high housing production and/or demonstration of best practices, including a grant program to assist MBTA Communities in complying with the multi-family zoning requirement in the MBTA Communities Law

• $25 million for grants to municipalities for planning and zoning initiatives that support housing production, workforce training, and economic opportunities, childcare and early education initiatives, and climate resiliency initiatives

• $20 million to provide incentive payments to municipalities who adopt smart growth housing districts

Having passed the House of Representatives 145-13, the bill now goes to the Senate for consideration. "

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOND BILL

I was happy to secure bond money for the following in-district project.

1. $250,000 for Searles Estate planning.
2. $250,000 for the Nevins Memorial Library
3. $100,000 Methuen Streetscape
4. $250,000 Cogswell Arts Center

The Economic Development Bond Bill "aims to bolster support for workers and businesses, particularly in the life sciences, clean energy technology, and manufacturing industries, while retaining a larger focus on making Massachusetts more affordable and competitive. Funded at $3.40 billion in bond authorizations, with an additional $700 million worth of tax credits, the legislation strives to ensure that the Commonwealth is prepared to lead the innovation industries of the

future.

"Through billions of dollars in critical investments and tax credits, the House's economic development bill provides support for companies at the forefront of innovation in the clean energy and the life sciences sectors, among other burgeoning industries. Ultimately, this legislation will help ensure that the Commonwealth remains a hub for future industries, while also enhancing support for workers across."

OTHER STATE-WIDE PRIORITIES IN THE BORROWING BILL INCLUDE

• $500 million for the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center to provide grants and loans in order to grow the life sciences industry in Massachusetts

• $400 million for MassWorks public infrastructure grants to municipalities

• $250 million for the Mass Impact grant program to support large transformational projects that will drive economic growth

• $200 million for the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) to support the research and commercialization of climate technology across the state

• $200 million for the MassCEC to invest in research and in the implementation of offshore wind infrastructure

• $150 million for grants for cities and towns for approved library projects

• $100 million for Municipal Financial Assistance Grants to municipal entities to assist them with workforce development

• $100 million for Applied AI Hub Capital grant program to support the adoption and application of AI technology in the state's tech sectors

• $100 million for the Rural Development Program, providing financial assistance to exclusively rural areas with the goal of community development

• $100 million for the Seaport Economic Council Grant program for municipalities for the construction/repair of coastal assets that have the potential to stimulate

HAMILTON: PAGE 16

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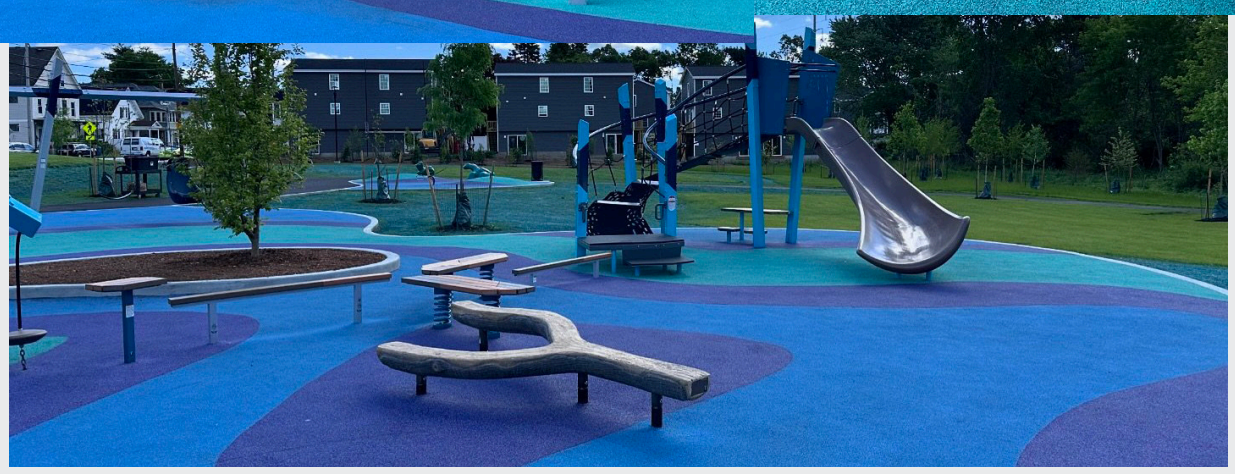
Welcome to the New Donovan Park in Lawrence



Mayor Brian A. DePeña and the City of Lawrence is thrilled to announce the grand reopening of Donovan Park, a major project that underscores our dedication to building parks for the future. We have transformed Donovan Park from 5,000 square feet to an expansive 6-acre recreational haven. The park, located on Andover Street in District E, was developed as a request made to Mayor DePeña by Councilor Stephany Infante. This project was funded through a combination of city and state resources with the collaboration of Groundwork Lawrence, the Office of Planning & Development & the Department of Public Works.

One of the highlights of the new Donovan Park is the state-of-the-art playground, designed with your children's safety in mind. The playground features a rubberized surface to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for kids of all ages.

The park includes walking paths, playground and more!

Come visit Donovan Park and see how the City of Lawrence is investing in our community's future. Enjoy a day of fun and safety at our newly expanded and upgraded park!

Honor Flight New England Honoring our Most Senior Veterans

KANE
VALLEY PATRIOT MASCOT/COLUMNIST

KANE'S KORNER

Pictured is World War II hero Frederick Walor from Dracut on his honor flight last month.

"The mission of Honor Flight New England is to Transport America's veterans to Washington DC to visit those memorials dedicated to honoring their service and sacrifices." (honorflightnewengland.org) Although Kane believes his writing skills are pretty good, no amount of words could adequately capture the energy and raw emotion of those being honored and respected for their sacrifice, as it should be, because these veterans are America's heroes.

Joseph Byron, founder of Honor Flight New England, was very humbled by his most recent group of World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam Veterans, who were flown to Washington DC with honor, to visit their memorials on June 16th, 2024 from the Manchester Boston Regional Airport. Joe explained to Kane that top priority is given to the most senior veterans along with those veterans who may be terminally ill. Joe explained that Honor Flight New England provides trips that are truly life changing for the veteran participants. Not only are they honored for their sacrifice, but they also have the unique opportunity to spend time with other like-minded individuals who truly get it, because they were there as well. Kane told Joe about the time he went to the World War II Memorial super early in the morning and witnessed several veterans finding each other and sharing stories. This was a very memorable opportunity for Kane.

Joe explained to Kane that the first flight was on June 13th, 2009. Since the program's inception they have helped 2379 veterans and launched 66 flights. Joe explained that their youngest World War II veteran served at 14 and 1/2 years old after forging his birth certificate. Kane thought wow, that veteran was the age of a high school freshman. Joe said, "for many veterans communicating about the war often does not happen, but this unique opportunity affords the veterans the opportunity to talk more openly among veterans who also served.

Kane was excited to learn that the trip is free for the veteran due to generous donations raised by Honor Flight New England. A guardian is assigned to each veteran, so they will have their special person to discuss their experience from beginning to end. The cost for a guardian to attend is $600.00 dollars. Each flight takes off and returns on the same day. Joe was excited to explain that Delta Airlines will be fully sponsoring a flight in September. Joe talked about the generous donations he has seen over the years.

Kane learned that Joe not only served in the Army in the mid 70's, but he also had a career in Law Enforcement in Manchester NH. In fact, Joe had a specific interest and specialization in crimes against seniors, a very vulnerable population indeed. Joe explained to Kane what piqued his interest in starting Honor Flight was conversations with an amazing World War II hero when he was on the job. Spending time with this gentleman motivated him to start the New England charter of Honor Flight.

Kane was honored to meet Frederick "Pat" Walor, a Purple Heart recipient, on a few occasions at the Dracut American Legion. Pat who is 100 years of age served in the Army during World War II and attended the Honor Flight trip on June 16th

Democrats are Victims of Their own Big Lie

Lenny Mirra
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

"Sharp as a tack." Just do a search of those words to see all the times a Democrat, both in office and in media, said them to describe Joe Biden. Of course, there's not so many saying it since that debate debacle on CNN and some Democrats seem to be having memory lapses of their own.

The very people who excoriated Republicans for spreading the Big Lie about a stolen election have been exposed for spreading their own Big Lie. Which is one thing when it comes from an elected official, we expect politicians to lie in order to preserve their grip on power, but it's another matter entirely when it comes from the media whose job it is to uncover those lies and make sure the public knows.

Just think back to the media backlash against Special Counsel Robert Hur who investigated Biden's possession of classified documents. Hur decided to not prosecute the president because, he said, at trial "Mr. Biden would likely present himself to a jury, as he did during our interview of him, as a sympathetic, well-meaning elderly man with a poor memory."

Hur was ripped apart for saying what was blatantly apparent about our president's cognitive decline. This is like getting angry at the kid who pointed out that the emperor had no clothes, and yet I can't find one media person to admit that the partisans in their industry have been pushing this blatant lie on the American public in order to protect their desired nominee.

Democrats have painted themselves into a corner and they have no one to blame but themselves, and something seldom reported is how they've done it before. It's pretty obvious that they rigged the 2016 primary as well as this year's. Even Senator Elizabeth Warren has publicly admitted to this, but it's like pulling teeth to get Democrats in the media to admit to being part of the ruse.

Just look at their "coverage" of this year's primary race that you never heard about where U.S. Representative Dean Phillips from Minnesota had the audacity to run for president against his party's wishes. I met with Phillips at a fundraiser in Exeter, NH where he explained how his own party was sabotaging his campaign, doing everything it could to keep him off ballots and eliminate any competition at all for Biden. They even went so far as to cancel the primary in Florida where

voters never even got a chance to vote because Democrats there declared Biden the winner without even a primary ballot. Pretty scary behavior from the party claiming to be the ones who will protect our democracy.

And hardly a word about it from the mainstream media.

Say what you want about Republicans, who seem to have thrown conservatism into the dustbin of history. They at least had a fair and open primary where voters had a choice of qualified candidates who got up on stages, debated, and made their cases as to why they should be president. The people had a chance to vote, and they picked Trump.

If Democrats in the media had done their jobs, if they just gave Phillips a fair chance, they could've prodded a debate months ago when delegates would've had the chance to pick a stronger candidate. They instead chose to foolishly protect Biden and cover up his weakened mental state, to the detriment of both their party and their country. ◊

The Three Amigos

Retired Lawrence Police Officers Mike Molchon (left) and Billy Lees (right) with Valley Patirot publisher Tom Duggan (middle) at the Dewey Club's Scholarship picnic last month. Molchon and Lees were cruiser partners with Duggan's father Tom Duggan Sr. who was killed in the line of duty back in 1990.

METHUEN ROTARY CARES FOR THE HOMELESS

Thank you to the Methuen Rotary Club for donating $1,000 to The Movement Family (TMF) to feed the homeless in Lawrence! A special thank you to president Erica Hadley and Amy Longtin who presented the check at Muddy Waters last month.

The Merrimack Valley Chamber hosted the Annual Next Generation Leaders Conference this past Friday at China Blossom in North Andover. Special thank you to our Keynote Speaker Joanna de Pena, President of Top Notch Scholars, for an inspiring presentation, and to our Title Sponsor TD Bank and Associate Sponsor Merrimack Valley Credit Union for their support!

-

Congratulations also to our Emerging Leader award recipients (L TO R)

Brandon Howes of Comfort Home Care

Elaina Aliferis of National Grid

Congratulations to you, Marilin!

Enterprise Bank, Lawrence branch team member, Marilin Salcedo Liriano was congratulated last week by her colleagues who celebrated her passing the test to become a US Citizen.

TMF OUTREACH TEAM SAVES ANOTHER LIFE!

Last month the The Movement Family's Outreach team (TMF) was making their usually Saturday deliveries to check on those living and struggling on the streets. Armed with donuts donated from Heavn'ly Donuts on Essex Street (and other amenities), they came across an individual laying in the woods in Lawrence, blue faced and not breathing. After they administere two doses of Narcan, Rubi and Zack from the TMF team started life saving measures doing CPR on the individual. TMF founder Michael Gorman called 911 while other team members ran out of the woods to meet paramedics and show them where the victim was laying. After six minutes of doing CPR, the individual regained a pulse and began shallow breathing. Paramedics arrived and took the individual to the hospital. We here at The Valley Patriot are very proud of the work TMF does every day to help the homeless and addicted turn their lives around without getting paid or bragging about it on Facebook like so many others. But we were particularly proud that their efforts have resulted in saving yet another life while out on the streets doing commuity outreach.

THE RETURN OF MOUNIR!
& Local Iconic Favorites

***Jim's Kabob**
***Smash Burgers**
***Steak N Cheese**
*** Fried Chicken Sandwiches**

Patrick's North Shore Eatery in North Andover is now open and serving the old Jim's Kabob menu with the return of Jim Mounir! Also returning is the old Tally-Ho chicken barb, and the original recipe of Harrison's Roast Beef!

80 Chickering Rd. Norrth Andover

HAMILTON: FROM 9

economic growth

TAX CREDITS INCLUDE

• Life Sciences Tax Credit: increases the annual amount of life sciences tax credits from $30 million to $50 million. It decreases the length of time that the certification for a life sciences company is valid from five years to three years and also repeals the Angel Investor Tax Credit.

• Climatetech Industry Incentive Program and Tax Credit: create a program modeled after the life sciences tax incentive program, capped at $30 million per year, to expand the Climatetech industry. Companies could claim credits for net new permanent full-time employees, capital investments, and eligible research costs. It also creates a sales tax exemption for the construction, remodeling, and remediation of certain climate-tech commercial facilities.

• Economic Development Incentive Program (EDIP) Tax Credit: removes the $500,000 per calendar year cap on the total amount of refundable EDIP tax credits that may be awarded for a certified economic development project and removes the $5 million cumulative per year cap on refundable tax credits.

• Live Theater Tax Credit: establishes a five-year live theater tax credit pilot program and tax credit, capped at $7 million per year, to support pre-Broadway, pre-off Broadway, national tour launches, and regional professional theater productions.

• Digital Interactive Media Tax Credit: establishes a five-year digital interactive media tax credit pilot program, capped at $5 million per year, to support the production of video games in the Commonwealth. It also establishes a sales tax exemption for digital interactive media production companies and students for production expenses.

• Internship Tax Credit: establishes a tax credit for employers, capped at $100,000 per employer and $10 million total credits annually, that employ for 12 weeks a recent graduate of a public or private institution of higher education in Massachusetts.

POLICY INITIATIVES INCLUDE

• Project Labor Agreements (PLAs): authorizes public agencies or municipalities to use PLAs if it is in the best interest of the Commonwealth and directs the Department of Labor Standards to promulgate regulations to increase the diversity of contractors in PLAs.

• Thomas Michael Menino Convention and Exhibition Center: directs the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority to designate the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center as the Thomas Michael Menino Convention and Exhibition Center.

• Combat Sports Governance Updates: modernizes how the Commonwealth oversees combat sports such as mixed martial arts and boxing to encourage more events in Massachusetts and provide greater protections for combatants. The bill allows MSAC to oversee and enforce contracts, revoke/suspend licenses, and requires formal training for those regulating events. It also increases insurance coverage for combatants injured during events.

• Rural Policy Commission and Rural Development Program: amend the definition of "rural community" to add municipalities with a population of less than 7,000 in the most recent census. It also establishes a rural development program administered by the Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED) to promote economic opportunity in rural communities.

• Workforce Investment Trust Fund: requires funds from the Workforce Investment Trust Fund to be competitively granted through existing workforce development programs that develop and strengthen workforce opportunities for low-income communities or vulnerable youth and young adults. Allows funds to be granted to programs providing opportunities for intellectual, developmental, or physical disabilities. And to facilitate work permits, professional credentialing, or other workforce opportunities for lawful non-citizens in Massachusetts.

• Broadband: authorizes governmental bodies to use the competitive sealed bid process under MGL 30B, instead of the procurement requirements for public works non-building construction contracts, to procure broadband internet service along with the design, installation, maintenance, and operation of broadband internet services for public buildings or public land.

• Special Permit for Construction: requires construction or operations under a special permit or a site plan approval under local ordinance or by-law to conform to any subsequent amendment of the zoning ordinance or by-law or any other local land use regulations unless the use or construction is commenced within three years after the issuance of the special permit or site plan approval.

• Commercial Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations: commercial EV charging stations must be registered with the division of standards under the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation (OCABR) on a form developed by the division before offering charging services to the public. All commercial electric vehicle charging stations operating as of January 1, 2025, must be registered with the division by January 1, 2026.

• Capital Improvement Trust Funds: expands the fund's purpose to include simulcasting.

• Running Horse Capital Improvements Trust Fund: provides that the licensee in Suffolk County shall not be obligated to make any further payments to the Running Horse Capital Improvements Trust Fund.

• Worcester County Simulcasting: authorizes a live racing meeting licensee in Worcester County to simulcast in any location in Worcester County.

• Salesperson Licenses: allows the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) to grant individuals employed as salesmen of farmer-distilleries the authority to solicit orders for alcoholic beverages on behalf of their employer.

• Ticket Sales: makes several changes to modernize ticket sales laws and increase consumer protections, including increased audits and testing of paperless systems, clear and conspicuous fee disclosures, and guaranteed refunds in case of canceled events and other circumstances

• Development at Devens: makes a number of technical updates to assist with planning and promoting further residential development at Devens

• Surety Bond Pilot Program: establishes a five-year surety bond assistance pilot program, subject to federal approval by the U.S. Treasury, to assist economically and socially disadvantaged businesses to secure contracts for capital projects in the form of technical or financial assistance.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact my office with any ideas, concerns, or questions at ryan.hamilton@mahouse.gov or 617-722-2090 ◊

Déjà Vu All Over Again

Philippe Thibault
VALLEY PATRIOT DRACUT CONTRIBUTOR

The winning slogan of Dracut's municipal election was, "nothing changes if nothing changes." This is something to be remembered whenever there is a need for change. Clearly the citizens of Dracut thought there was a need. After a decade and a half under the thumb of Selectmen DiRocco and recently under his young apprentice Alison Genest, there was a need to change direction. Genest touted the great state of economics in Dracut's government and the need to "keep the momentum going" during her reelection campaign last year. Days after the election, the town manager announced that the town would have a deficit in the next three years to the amount of ten million dollars as a conservative estimate. Much of this year's election campaigning dealt with the projected shortfall and the more than looming issue of the imminent Town Manager's retirement, although yet unannounced during the election. The final vote brought not only a new selectman, Josh Taylor, but also the announcement by the assistant town manager's departure for a new position in another community. This June's town meeting heralded the retirement announcement of the town manager.

The thinking that Dracut has lost its leadership with the absence created by the departure of both the town manager and her assistant would be incorrect. The town has gained leadership with the election of Josh Taylor, replacing Joe DiRocco. His election allows Tony Archinski and more so Heather Santiago Hutchins to blossom in their leadership roles. The exiting of the town manager and assistant is a loss of management. A management that had an asterisk suffix provided by Joe DiRocco some four years ago with the abrupt departure of then Town Manager Jim Duggan.

After Duggan's resignation the Board of Selectmen set up a process to seek a replacement for the position of town manager. Each selectman would appoint a citizen representative to serve on a Screening Committee. There were five members in all. John Crowley, Joe Wilke, Charlie Kanavos, and Kathy Patnaude were among the appointed. To my utter surprise, Selectwoman Dristilliaris asked me to be her appointment. I was honored to do so. The Edward J Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management from Boston was hired to facilitate the process and assist the Screening Committee. Over the next month and a half, the committee culled through fifty-four resumes, interviewed a short list of eleven candidates, selected the four persons to forward to the Board of Selectmen as the best potential candidates for Town Manager. All this done under executive session so the committee's deliberations would only be released to the Board of Selectmen at the appropriate time, so there would be no undue influence over the committee members' decision, so the identity of the candidates not chosen would remain secure.

On February 19th, 2020, a letter from the Screening Committee was sent to the Board of Selectmen presenting the selected as final candidates. I was told that DiRocco went bombastic hearing that his handpick candidate, Ann Vandal, was not in the final list. The Good Ol' Boy network went into overdrive to derail the process they started and somehow lost control. How could their selected appointees on the Screening Committee not pick their anointed candidate? DiRocco, Forcier, and Hughes never thought that their appointees would have more integrity than themselves, ironic. Hughes even started rumors that Vandal was never interviewed by the committee and then Vandal was never asked the same questions. For the record, Vandal was asked the same questions in the same order, and by the same committee members as all the other candidates. Significant effort and care were exercised to remove any variables in the screening process. The Dirty Three decided to suspend the process they had started and coronate their selection, oddly without even an interview. There were only five people in a town of thirty-two thousand residents that interviewed Vandal, none of those five were on the Board of Selectmen.

Today looks more like yesterday than it does tomorrow. Change happens slowly and the more things change the more they look the same. Here we are in June of 2024 and the Selectmen are assembling a Town Manager Screening Committee with the Edward J Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management hired to facilitate. There is not much change in the air if you judge by the selections to date: Tom Bomil a retired Dracut employee from the Board of Health, Dave Martin, and Don Plummer recent candidates for the Board of Selectman. Linda Hayes has been selected and while she has an impressive resume, she last served on the School Committee over twenty years ago and has been leading a private life since. The last individual Selectman appointment is Alison Hughes. If that name sounds familiar, it should. She is the same Hughes that helped to scuttle the ship last time. Hughes has been selected by DiRocco's apprentice, Alison Genest. The scenario just feels so Machiavellian. Town Hall West appears to be returning to the scene of the crime like arsonists to a conflagration. Nobody could write this as fiction and make it believable. The Screening Committee has been turned into a political football, and in Dracut it is more like Rugby: a hard-fought scrum and bloody.

And why should the citizens of Dracut, the Collins Center, or any potential applicants take this matter seriously at this point. Hughes was always in favor of hiring Vandal outright in the last process. I have serious concerns about how she spoke so disparagingly about the previous Screening Committee. You would rightfully think she has a disdain for such a procedure. At a minimum she has made false accusations of the process that make me question her veracity. Genest has been the petulant child since the election. Her loss of the Chairmanship and stranglehold on boards and committees make me ponder if she would rather see Dracut burn in the desire to say, "I told you so." Alison Genest may well continue to remain a poisoned pill in the manager's search and beyond. ◊

CANCER FROM PAGE 2

attendees and Hamas insurgents," according to a report in Rolling Stone magazine.

The pro-Palestinian group, "Within Our Lifetime," organized the protests against the exhibit by targeting New York City museums. Why museums? This group claims that cultural institutions, like museums, are "…drenched in the blood of Palestinian martyrs."

The message seems to be that places like museums have significant Jewish donors and therefore they are places to be protested against. The Lower Manhattan exhibit last Monday to commemorate the murdered Israeli's was just another exhibition that needed to be condemned.

According to a report in the Wall Street Journal, " 'Long live Intifada,' " the crowd cheered, waving flares outside the exhibit commemorating the hundreds who were massacred at the Nova festival. " 'Israel, go to hell.' " Young American adults waved Hamas and Hezbollah flags and chanted, " 'Resistance is justified, where people are occupied.' " Signs declared "'Abolish the settler state.' " They mean abolish Israel. The New York Post reports that one protester was captured on video declaring that he wished "'Hitler was still here.' ".

If this protest reminds you of 1930's Germany and the targeting of Jewish businesses, synagogues and other Jewish landmarks, then you are ahead of most Americans in awareness of what is happening here.

If you know what Kristallnacht means, then you may shudder at what I have written in this article.

If you are oblivious to both of what I have mentioned, then you are not unlike a typical German of the 1930's, blissfully turning your head from the ugliness that is consuming America.

This is not what the First Amendment is all about. This is about a government that is allowing, if not outright condoning, a rise in antisemitism as our open borders and other policies invite hatred disguised as diversity. The fundamental transformation is not just about elevating the "Joe the Plumbers" of the country. It's about tearing down our heritage, plain and simple.

And if you think the rise in antisemitism is not connected with this effort, then you will sadly awaken one day to an America you never thought you would see. ◊

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Throw in the White Towel for Glass Joe

Kenneth Willette
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Growing up in the 1980s was a fond and memorable experience. Going to the Methuen Mall and playing at the Dream Machine arcade reminded me of the video game Punch-Out!!, which came out in 1984 and immediately emerged as the most popular arcade game. The weakest boxer in Punch-Out!! was a character called Glass Joe. He was fragile, one-dimensional, unsure of his actions, easily controlled, and incapable of attacking stronger opponents. Glass Joe was essentially the biggest pushover in the video game universe.

Sadly, our declining President displays all the features of Glass Joe, so the moniker matches him in 2024, especially as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the video game's release.

Glass Joe Biden is also akin to Democratic President James Buchanan, who caved in to evil forces in his own party and failed to invoke the executive power and moral authority of his office. Must it eventually take the senseless murders of Jewish Americans to finally energize the full might of Biden's DOJ and the FBI to arrest and prosecute the Hamas wing of the Democratic Party?

Issuing press releases and scripted appeals from the Biden White House does nothing to deter mobilized and coordinated hate, which amounts to a criminal conspiracy as there is an electronic and evidentiary trail of emails, messages, social media posts and funds being funneled across the nation. The evil Hamas sharks are smelling blood in the absence of criminal enforcement, circling Jewish communities and encroaching more into their businesses, schools, synagogues and homes.

At this stage, has the Biden DOJ prosecuted any protestors for federal civil rights violations? In LA, thugs purposely surrounded a synagogue, physically assaulted Jews and sprayed bear repellant at peaceful Jewish counter protestors. In DC, Hamas fanatics defaced statues and cried out chants of genocide aimed at Jews right outside the White House fences.

Another character in Punch Out!!, considered the strongest boxer, was called Bald Bull. The strength of President Eisenhower comes to mind when invoking Bald Bull, as he federalized the Arkansas National Guard and sent in the 101st Airborne Division to allow African Americans to pursue an equal public education in Little Rock after the landmark and unanimous Brown versus Board of Education decision. Glass Joe will never channel the decisiveness of Eisenhower who confronted the violent mobs and affirmed the Constitution.

GOP Congresswoman and potential Trump VP candidate Elise Stefanik has demanded the resignation of indifferent university presidents who are turning a blind eye to Jewish hate crimes on their campuses. Under Glass Joe's watch, has any university been formally warned of losing federal funds if it does not address civil rights violations?

Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg recently dropped charges against most protestors who engaged in violence and destruction at Columbia University, which sparked massive backlash from the Jewish community. Tragically, Bragg is more interested in bragging about bagging Trump on outlandish and unconstitutional legal theories as opposed to protecting the rights of Jewish Americans to seek an education, to worship openly and wear religious apparel and to conduct business.

These Hamas monsters are directly violating the "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness" manifesto made famous in the Declaration of Independence, as we fast approach the celebration of our nation's birth.

There are clear warning signs for the Democratic Party, as nearly 50% of NY Jewish voters support Trump, which is unprecedented in modern American politics for Jews to favor the GOP nominee in such numbers. According to the Times of Israel, Glass Joe is losing significant ground in Israel as more Israelis, many of whom have dual citizenship in America too, prefer a Trump presidency over Biden's by a margin of 44% to 30%.

Glass Joe is collapsing in nearly every battleground state poll. Is he risking Jewish lives to secure Arab votes in Michigan? Are the protestors even worth it as a voting base? Does Glass Joe even realize that Radical Squad member and Hamas apologist Jamaal Bowman was trounced by a heavily financed, Pro-Israel primary opponent?

Imagine if these Marxist frauds, antisemites and Hamas loyalists ever took leadership over the DNC? Many of them embrace homicidal Communist leaders, express satisfaction over the prospects of an America in permanent decline and reject capitalism. They are the same historical neophytes who dismiss the fact that 80 million victims were murdered under the tyrannical regimes of both Mao and Stalin. Don't take my word for it-- look in their crowds online for Mao or Che Guevara t-shirts! The nexus is clearly there.

The misinformation is even more stunning when protestors equate Israel as a colonizing power. Please explain to me what economic benefits do Israelis-- or the world for that matter-- derive from Gaza that would grant it status as an oppressed colony. Historically, colonies, like the American colonies, provided direct natural resources to the mother country in a mercantile system before the full advent of capitalism. Gaza is nothing but a failed, welfare-dependent region radicalized by murderous forces who must be removed before any mutual economic benefits can be realized.

Wasn't it Biden who was supposed to have a robust foreign policy agenda and act as a deterrent against our foes overseas? Where has Glass Joe led us? Iran is closing the window on testing a nuclear device, which would be an absolute game changer in the Middle East. Hezbollah has launched thousands of rockets into Northern Israel, which will soon compel the Israeli Defense Forces to open a second front to eradicate them and protect Israeli civilians who have fled the region. Putin and North Korea just concluded a mutual defense treaty. And Putin briefly stationed Russian naval vessels off the coast of Vero Beach, Florida. Do you think that would have happened under Trump or Reagan?

In conclusion, noted historian Howard Zinn wrote about legal systems in the Jim Crow South that condoned assaults, lynchings and murders of African Americans, including 14-year-old Emmett Till.

Let us not repeat that dark chapter in our history. ◊

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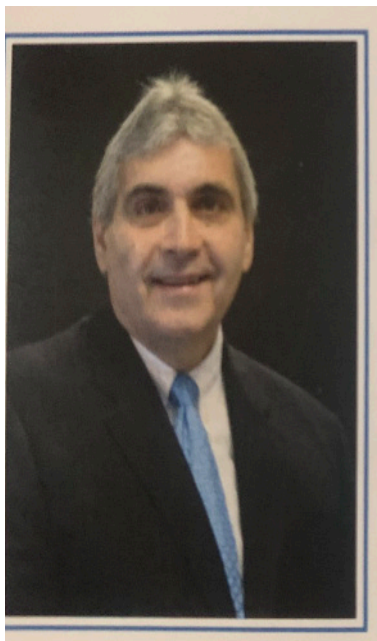

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JOHN ZIMINI

Senate Strips $1M from Housing Bill slated for local non profit.

Driver Charged in North Andover Vehicle Crash Death

North Andover, Mass. – June 18, 2024 – One woman was killed and another criminally charged after a vehicle crashed into a building in North Andover at approximately 11 p.m. on Sunday night. North Andover Police responded to the incident and Diana Melo, age 37, of Lawrence was pronounced deceased after being transported to Lawrence General Hospital.

Vickiana Vargas-Guevara, age 28, of North Andover was charged with motor vehicle homicide while under the influence of alcohol and being negligent; motor vehicle homicide by reckless operation; leaving the scene of a collision resulting in death; leaving the scene of property damage; operating under the influence of liquor; and reckless operation. North Andover Police and the Massachusetts State Police Collision and Reconstruction Section continue to investigate.

Vargas-Guevara was arraigned in Lawrence District Court on Monday, June 17. The Commonwealth, represented by the Office of Essex County District Attorney Paul Tucker, requested bail be set at $250,000 and terms of GPS monitoring with house arrest, no alcohol, no driving, and a substance abuse evaluation with aftercare. Judge Jason Chan set bail at $50,000 and imposed all the Commonwealth's requested terms other than GPS monitoring with house arrest. A pretrial hearing is scheduled for July 17 at 9 a.m.

CITY OF LAWRENCE LAUNCHES AMBITIOUS

RENEWAL PROJECT IN BATTLE

TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

Had lunch recently with former Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua to discuss his upcoming run for mayor next year. Turns out Lantigua and I have some common interests these days. Who would have thought?

AGAINST OPIOID CRISIS

Lawrence, MA – The City of Lawrence, under the leadership of Mayor Brian A. DePeña, has unveiled an ambitious renewal project aimed. This project will include multiple basketball courts and a multi-purpose court.

This initiative is a highlight of Mayor DePena's Opioid Project Plan, which involves a collaborative effort among several city departments, including the Community Development Department, Economic Development Department, Planning Department, Department of Public Works (DPW), the Lawrence Police Department (LPD), the Department of Health and Human Services, Parks and Recreation Department, and Groundwork Lawrence, and contributing to the fight against the opioid epidemic.

Thank you, Senator Pavel Payano and City Councilor Vivian Marmol, for joining the City of Lawrence in our partnership to revitalize and eliminate the slum and blighted areas. The City of Lawrence is committed to improving the quality of life for its residents through various initiatives aimed at promoting health, wellbeing, and economic prosperity. Through these collaborative efforts, Lawrence continues to make strides in community development and revitalization.

WINSTON SAYS!

Looks like the State Senate took $1M out of the House Bonding Bill What a shame!

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THE DOCTOR IS IN!

Dealing with Arthritis

Dr. Piere Ghassibi
MEDICAL CONTRIBUTOR

Greetings.

As a physician, this is my take on arthritis and osteoarthritis.

Joint pains can come from old trauma, autoimmune diseases and infections. But the most common is osteoarthritis due to aging. Some aging is secondary to lack of fitness, which is great news, because we can do something about it.

The joints are held together by the tendons, ligaments and muscles. Strong muscles are protective but also nutritive; they provide more blood and nutrition to bones.

So, exercise as we know, strengthens the bones, but strengthening the supportive muscles adds to preventing or slowing arthritis to a large degree.

Walking and Tai Chi are great, but not enough; we have to achieve more muscle effort to gain the necessary strength.

Stronger muscles, better fitness, as we all know, can also help control diabetes, high blood pressure and memory, in addition to lowering the risks of cancer, falls and depression.

Let me add a few words on physical therapy and chiropractic manipulation: both have passive and active parts. Range of motion exercises, heat, ice packs, braces, massage, all relieve pain and hide the disease process but are not treatments. The treatment, the attempt to cure, is active exercise; in other words, strengthening the muscles. Put another way, it is movement against some resistance that can ultimately cure or decrease the amount of arthritis.

Gaining fitness improves our self-esteem and attitude. This is the icing on the cake.

P. Ghassibi, MD
ghassibi@hotmail.com ◊

Executive Driver Needed. Responsibilities include maintaining a personal and professional schedule, coordinating meetings and events. Must be reliable and arrive at appointments on time. The ideal candidate must have exceptional communication and interpersonal skills and must be incredibly organized with a strong work ethic. Send resume and cover letter to (Alessiacruz45@gmail.com) for details.

with his daughter Sandy Walor. The town provided quite a sendoff with representative Colleen Garry, members of the local Boy Scouts, members of the Nam Knights Motorcycle Club, the police and citizens of the town. Pat received quite a sendoff at 3:00AM. His ride to the airport was escorted by the Lowell Police Motorcycle Unit and the Nam Knights Motorcycle Club. Kane's friend Barbara Coakley who was riding with her husband Christopher Coakley in the escort said, "it was a very humbling experience from beginning to end, and she was very happy to be part of it."

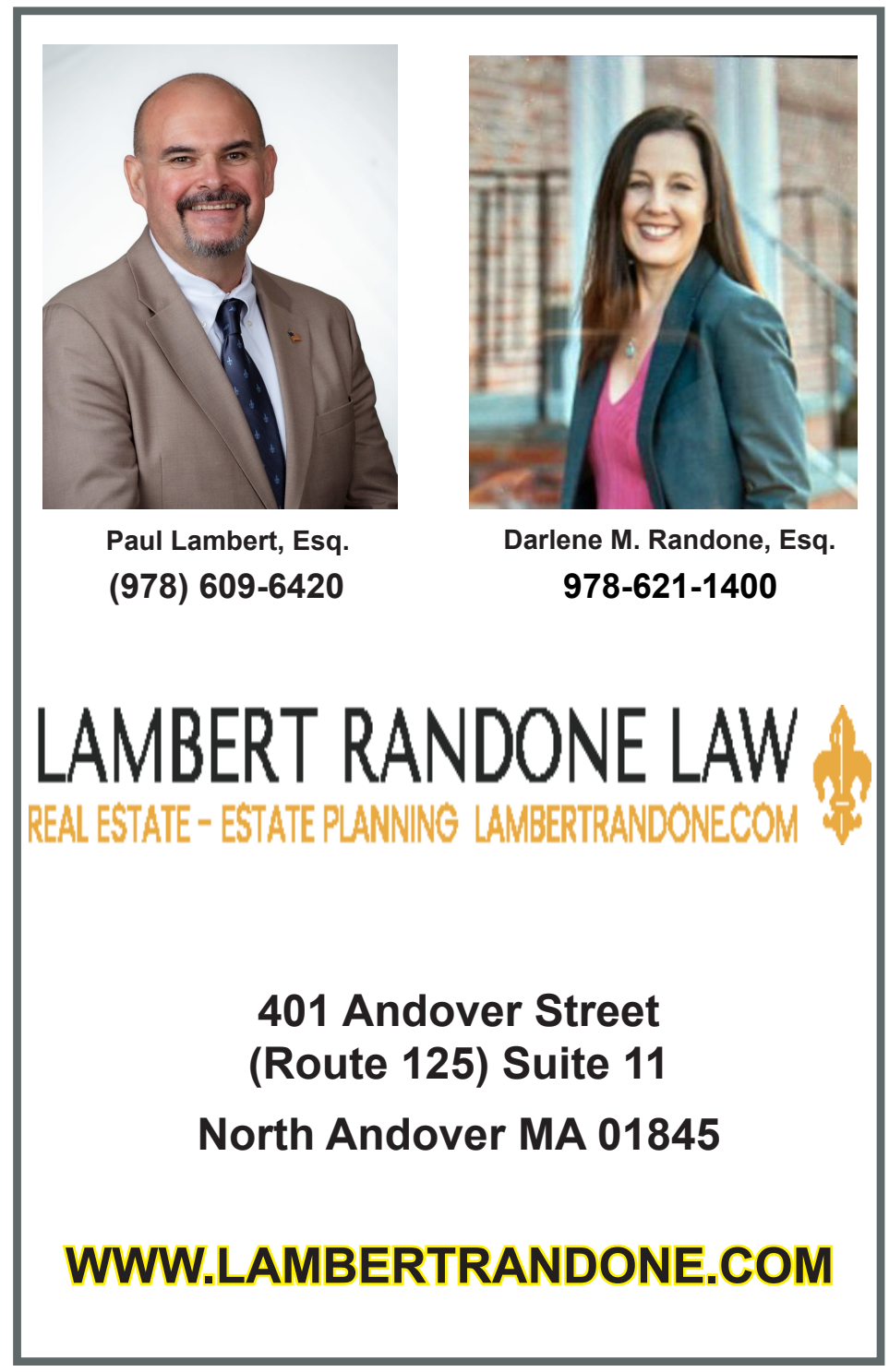
Kane is hopeful that readers of the Valley Patriot will let Senior Veterans know about the program so they could apply to attend a flight. Kane also learned that you can donate to Honor Flight New England on the website (honorflightnewengland.org) or by sending a donation to Honor Flight New England, P.O. Box 16287, Hooksett, NH 03106.

As for Joseph Byron, Kane is so happy he met a very special World War II veteran while working at the police department, who inspired him to start Honor Flight New England. Thank you for your service, Joe. Your work and that of the other members of your team is inspirational.

Kane Peaslee

Columnist, Valley Patriot woof woof

◊



Julian Stopyra Post Scholarship Picnic

The weather couldn't stop the members of the Julian Stopyra Post - Polish American Veterans of Lawrence enjoying a picnic luncheon on Saturday, June 17th, 2023, with the ten college students who were the recipients of the Post's annual scholarship for students of Polish heritage studying for their undergraduate degrees.

The annual scholarships are awarded based on the applicants' academic excellence, academic and community interests and achievements, interest in Polish subjects, and involvement in the Polish American community.

Honored were Caroline Curran (University of Tampa), Jack Curran (Bryant University), Maggie Curran (UMass Amherst), Alexis Howard (Northeastern University), Cameron Smith (Franklin Pierce University), Jake Kelley (Emerson College), Lucas Kelley (UMass Amherst), Ava Korbani (Boston College), Jack Sullivan (Merrimack College), and Kiana McCormick (Plymouth State).

The Julian Stopyra Post, which was founded in 1947, was named for Julian Stopyra, a radioman on the USS Arizona who was the first serviceman from Lawrence to die in service during World War II. Seventy-six years later, the Post remains an active organization and participates in many veterans' activities as well as donating to veterans' and other worthy causes. ◊

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Property Sales, Foreclosures for JUNE, 2024 in Andover, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover. (All properties are listed in order; seller, buyer, price, address.)

Northern Essex Registry of Deeds

M. Paul Iannuccillo, Register

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth
of Massachusetts

ANDOVER

Hope M Morin Tr & Michael L Morin Tr & Michael L Morin Revocable Trust 2012 & Hope M Morin Revocable Trust of 2012, Zhongcong Xie & Yin Wu, $2,475,000, 3 Trevino Cir

David K Eikenberry & C Lynn Foster Eikenberry, Jeffrey & Amy Hamilton, $1,875,000, 8 Judson Rd

Kelly Feeley Tr/Kelly A Feeley Tr & Feeley Family Andover Trust, Jianer Zhang & Jiarong Xu, $1,695,000, 19 Buttonwood Dr

Jennifer A & Brian J McSweeney III , Alexander Shipley & Elaina Stevens, $1,655,000, 4 Furnari Farm Ln

Ever Mercy LLC, Hong Cheng & Chunguang Zhao, $1,650,000, 54 Abbott St

Michael & Mary Ruth Luther, Riccardo Boscolo, $1,625,000, 1 Spencer Ct

Anthony T Parziale Tr & Leanne A Parziale Tr & Parziale Family Trust, Sean Linnehan & Caroline Paige Linnehan, $1,500,000, 12 Granli Dr

Peter A & Louisa R Neissa, Samuel & Erin Ashmore, $1,499,000, 173 Holt Rd

Trevor W Barcelo Tr & Tracey E Spruce Tr & Tracey E Spruce Revocable Trust & Trevor W Barcelo Revocable Trust, Brandon & Alexandra Mahler , $1,482,000, 23 Woodhaven Dr

Clark Realty Trust & Peter D & Renee V Clark Trs, William & Patricia Davies , $1,425,000, 80 Wildwood Rd

Belliv22 LLC, Larger LLC, $1,375,000, 26 Bobby Jones Dr Unit 4-4

Rena Tucker Tr & Tucker Realty Trust, Michel Bamani & Elke Trilla-Bamani, $1,353,000, 6 Farrwood Dr

Yvon Comier Tr & CA Investment Trust , Jeffrey & Judy Chartier, $1,300,000, 9 Cormiers Wy

Francis A Ciampa Tr & Sheila F Ciampa Tr & Ciampa Revocable Trust, Khaled Zemoura, $1,300,000, 27 Ivana Dr Unit 12-4

Farzana J & Jamshe Palsetia, Rikshit Khanna & Angel Walia, $1,299,000, 1 Penbrook Cir

Peter M & Beth A Hill, Christine A & Gerard E Welch Trs & Bobby J Realty Trust, $1,280,000, 11 Bobby Jones Dr Unit 10-2

Janet A Suleski, Abu S Abdullah, $1,250,000, 5 Odyssey Wy

James R DiBona II Tr & Ann Olga DiBona Revocable Trust, Tracy E Reilly Tr & Peter J Reilly Tr & Reilly Trust, $1,230,000, 29 Canterbury St

Gregory & Leigh Ott, Brendan Powers & Theresa Nicholson, $1,217,000, 229 Andover St

Mo Zhou, Aihua Jiang & Ke Wang, $1,205,000, 62 North St

James M Mertes Tr & Gayle G Mertes Tr & 5 Waverly Drive Realty Trust, David & Alison Borrelli, $1,140,000, 5 Waverly Dr

4 Tiffany Lane LLC, Matthew Levis & Michelle Cristiano, $1,130,000, 4 Tiffany Ln

Daniel M Kassner & Andrea Messer Kassner/Andrea C Messer, Terence J & Kerry M Ryan, $1,060,000, 114 Bailey Rd

David N Herskovits Tr & Simeon M Herskovits Tr & Phyllis E Herskovits 2011 Revocable Trust, DJA LLC, $1,050,000, 109 Central St

Nickolas & Meghan Mitton, Jeremy & Marisa Nezaria, $1,030,000, 53 Gould Rd

Tracey Reilly Tr/Tracey E Reilly Tr & Peter J Reilly Tr & Reilly Trust, Caroline C & Joseph C King III, $1,004,000, 17 Canterbury St

Nicholas W Zammuto Tr & Peter & Marlies Zammuto Living Trust, Matthew & Jessica Capstick-Dempsey, $1,000,000, 7 Donna Rd

John G Sinnigen & Elizabeth Silliman, Laura Mini-Baker & Don Baker, $982,000, 19 Stinson Rd

Michael & Joanne L Passanisi, John Williams & Afra Danai, $949,900, 194 Holt Rd

Michael H & Kelly M Gebo/Kelly M Martin, Ukwen Akpoji & Alessandra Lyman, $944,777, 7 Tobey Ln

Alexandra & Brandon Mahler, 31 Porter Road LLC, $915,000, 31 Porter Rd

Edward W & Karen M Parker, Evan B & Elizabeth H Morse, $900,000, 9 Carlisle St

Byong Hak An/Eric Byonghak An & Kyung Soon An & Kyong S An, Bao Nguyen & Shuang Men, $880,000, 50 North St

Jane E Karp Tr & Revocable Trust Agreement of Jane E Karp, Baby Eagle LLC, $880,000, 44 Washington Ave Unit 2

Christopher Gannon Tr & Cannon Realty Trust, John DeNave & Haley Moore, $850,000, 6 Virginia Rd

Robert L Canavan Tr & Virginia M Canavan Tr & Canavan Family Trust , John Canavan, $850,000, 35 Pleasant St

Ernest W & Sheila C Fleming, Emily Hague & Jason Trefey, $850,000, 170 Lowell St

Linda McCarthy/Linda Conners-McCarthy/Linda Marie Conners-McCarthy, Brian & Hillary Glick, $830,000, 82 Haverhill St

Jeffrey D Jacocks Tr & Tanya S Pospisil Tr & Jacocks Pospisil Living Trust, Thomas P Tracy & Amy Paturzo, $775,000, 6 Chester St

97 Lovejoy LLC, Robert & Lynette Luschenat Trs & 97 Lovejoy Realty Trust, $750,000, 97 Lovejoy Rd

Betty A Boudreau & Lisa A Wilson, Anthony Grise, $737,500, 183 Summer St

Chu Chen, James & Kimberly Hamel, $729,000, 17 Candlewood Dr

Martin J C Ewer & Anne A Ewer, Charles & Ashley Ludwig, $729,000, 6 Embassy Ln

Ellen McKeough & David L Wilde, Transatlantic Commerce LLC, $705,000, 3 Chandler Cir

Michael J & Ann Marie Sheehy, Opendoor Property J LLC, $646,700, 12 Shirley Rd

Sujit Arun Jalgaonkar & Supriya Gawas, Brian P Oriordan, $635,000, 18 Dale St Unit 5-B

Siena D Kim/Siena D McCauley, Ellen Boyle & Eric Grabar, $611,000, 34 Juliette St

Timothy & Kristen Stonecipher, Hao-Ting Chang & Ping-Hsiang Lee, $610,000, 181 High St Unit 2

Shirley L Romano Tr & Deborah E Romano Tr & Shirley Romano Trust & Shirley L Romano Life Est, BTLR LLC, $600,000, 84 Spring Grove Rd

Dolores Anoli, Alfred P & Astrid A Arcifa, $499,900, 4 Powder Mill Sq Unit 104D

Eliezer D & Hannah G Nunez/Hannah G Gray, Waqar LLC , $485,500, 450 Brookside Dr Unit 450F

Gregg B Lane, William Ruocco, $465,000, 11 Juliette St

Mary Jo Mahan, William & Irene Bates, $440,000, 250 North Main St Unit 3

Kevin & Maureen Callahan, Alison Lynch, $430,000, 250 North Main St Unit 6

Scott C Lindstrom , Ephesus LLC, $425,000, 6 Country Rd

Karen E Luther, Judith L Cummings, $415,000, 5 Porter Rd Unit 102

Yuanlin Dong & Chunsheng Song, Lotien Richard Huang & Eszter Hars, $380,000, 6 Longwood Dr Unit 311

Shari Fabiani & Roberta C Brodie Est, Betsy R Robinson, $364,000, 2 Francis Dr Unit 305

Louis J Galligani, Brittany Wallace & Sean Martin, $350,000, 16 Balmoral St Unit 304

Punchard LLC, Philip Gallee & Shelley Steenrod, $315,000, 100 Main St Unit K

Mary Lyons , JunJun &Mei Li, $305,000, 16 Balmoral St Unit 410

Sina Samali, Karen Toner, $280,000, 60 Colonial Dr Unit 10

William S Henderson , 43 Lupine Road LLC, $250,000, 43 Lupine Rd

Tracy E Waugh, Nashiara Investments LLC, $240,000, 1 Colonial Dr Unit B1-1

Kai Zhang & Wanning Jiang, AGH Revocable Trust & Cindy Lao Hua Tr & Dat Vi Hua Tr, $210,000, 70 Washington Park Dr Unit A

Mark Richardson, Nashiara Investments LLC, $190,000, 30 Colonial Dr Unit 30B-6

LAWRENCE

Manik Zaman & Rukhsana Ansari, Union Lodging LLC, $4,400,000, 77-91 South Union St

JAM Realty Trust LLC, Osgood Street Partners LLC, $2,000,000, 9 Osgood St

DLC Phase One LLC, AA Real Estate Group LLC, $1,900,000, 62-66 Manchester St

Kimball Lawrence St LLC, Sarah Yasmin Tr & Ashraf Riaz Trust, $1,150,000, 35-37 Falmouth St

152-154 Prospect Street LLC, Avinash Kashyap Tr & 152-154 Prospect Street Realty Trust, $1,100,000, 152-154 Prospect St

JMHD LLC, Cely Management LLC, $971,500, 230-234 Hampshire St

Juan Lopez, Juan M Figueroa & Rosa Rodriguez, $859,000, 154-156 Willow St

Topi Investments LLC, Agnaldo Barbosa Do Carmo, $853,000, 21-23 Brookfield St

Robert A Hiraldo & Luis Ramos, Marco & Eman Shaker, $830,000, 9-13 Springfield St

Alvin Morales, Felix Danilo Matul Lopez, $800,000, 2 Winthrop Ave

E&J Realty Division LLC, Seth Investments LLC, $800,000, 296-298,304-306 So Broadway

Carlos Palen/Carlos Palen-Vasquez, Wilbert De La Rosa & Lucia M Perez German, $750,000, 32 Shaw St

Samuel Vargas & Ruth Vargas-Toribio, Casdi Realty LLC, $705,000, 33-33A Salem St

Jae Rivas Inc, Santiago Minaya Javier, $675,000, 147 Ferry St

Rose Marie Pierre/Rose M Pierre & Robert H Minasian & Raymond A Batiste Est/Raymond D Batiste Est/Raymond Pierre Batiste Est, Masiel Disla-Peralta & Jeffrey Pozo, $670,000, 9 Trenton St

Hector Guerrero, Joshua Guerrero & Lourdes E Laureano, $665,000, 137 Abbott St

Daher Group Inc, Jelany Arias & Haylin R Peguero Mejia, $657,000, 32 Granville St

Patricia Jarrell Tr & Belanger Irrevocable Trust, Dahian P Matos & Lenin F Matos Baez, $640,000, 152-154 Chester St

Michael J & Kristyn Sullivan, Victor Antonio Mejia & Yosaira Ruiz, $640,000, 8 Burlington St

Louise A Bistany, Lynelia E Raposo, $625,000, 20 Devonshire St

Stephanie Almonte, Jenifel P Sanchez De Adames, $584,000, 6 Meadow St

Arlenny Y Gutierrez, Juan Castillo Paredes & Josefa Taveras De Castillo & Luz L Castillo, $580,000, 25-27 Forest St

Roger D Bergeron Tr & Kevin M Binette Tr & Roger D Bergeron Revocable Trust & Kevin M Binette Revocable Trust, Candida Polanco & Jonathan W Roman, $580,000, 3 Ayer Rd

Randy Alexander Feliz Peralta, Randul R Diaz, $570,000, 159 High St

NEXT PAGE

REAL ESTATE: From 24

Elizabeth & Roberto Ortiz, Alba Judit Machado & Ennedi Sigfredo Tejada, $560,000, 123 Everett St

Cecilia T Sederman, Johanna E Santiago, $534,500, 363-365 Water St

Leslie A O'Malley Tr & Leslie A O'Malley Living Trust, Cam Thuy Bui, $530,000, 9 Cyr Dr

Antonia & David Cruz, Gladys Alisma & Gladiana Alisma, $530,000, 4 Stevens Ave

Sandra Keefe & Sarah Gosselin, Genesis D Liriano Rodriguez & Yahaira Rodriguez, $500,000, 18 Leroy Ave

Maria Arias/Maria Baker, Martha & Munecas Daycare LLC, $480,000, 39 Storrow St

Mayte Y & Marcos B Regalado, Marcos Andrade & Nicole Marie Shipley-Rose, $450,000, 55 Kingston St

Joan & Alex Figueroa, Alex M Barrera, $430,000, 35 Hamilton St

Tien Phung Nguyen, Ezequiel Augusto Marte Gonzalez, $425,000, 8 Home St

Luis A Valazquez/Luis A Velasquez, Yamile Amparo & Ana C Valdez Martinez, $404,000, 115 Margin St Unit A

Sunnybrook Development Inc, Liset Rosario Tejada & Levinson E Rosario & Jacoba Tejada De Rosario, $372,610, 5 Packard St Unit 5

Karen Duarte, Lindsey Raymond, $295,000, 312 Water St Unit 27

Amy Andrews, Ronald J Ferreira, $280,000, 242 Mt Vernon St Unit 10

Home Rentals LLC, Spencer Hess, $275,000, 312 Water St Unit 35

Jose M Mercado Cabrera & Gabriela M Nunez Ventura, Niko M Baez, $265,000, 312 Water St Unit 11

V Anthony Ansaldi Tr/Anthony Ansaldi Tr & Cameron-Bishop/Janton Trust, Md Toffazzal Hossain, $256,000, 24-26 Inman St Unit 38

Teresa M Myers, Chanel Romano, $210,000, 262 East Haverhill St Unit 20

Laura D Figueroa, Alfredo Martinez Tr & SMLP Family Trust, $170,000, 25 Logan St Unit 2

Stephen J & Lisa Marie Masuk, Daher Group Inc, $115,000, 5 Lafayette Ave

Abdel S Bouzid/Abdelefettah Bouzid & Siham Berrada, Siham Berrada, $50,000, 48 Manchester St Unit 3

Maria Javier & Freddy F Demorizi Frias , Freddy F Demorizi Frias, $20,000, 20 Knox St Unit 6

METHUEN

YMCA Residences at Ingalls Court 1 LLC, Element Care Inc, $2,494,212, 14 Ingalls Ct Unit 1B

Joseph V Elia & Paula A Ray , Cynthia May Lanoie Tr & Gary Lucien Lanoie Tr & Lanoie Family Living Trust, $850,000, 91 Phoebe St Unit 49

Sieu Binh O & Lan To Olieu, Bryan M Dickerson & Alexandra Hunt, $845,000, 31 Maple Ridge Rd

Mark R & Judithann Riopelle, Jonathan Allen & Sarah Riley, $822,000, 14 Overlook Dr

Brian M & Nancy Pelletier , Emad Matta & Bishoy Matta & Basant Abdelshahed & Kirollos Matta, $750,000, 33 Ayer St

Quoc-Anh & Christine Ngo/Christine Ward, Chandana Marneni & Preetham Roy Pothakamuri, $749,000, 41 Tyler St

Select Properties LLC, Pavel Quezada, $720,000, 13 Haverhill St

Sandra G Perrault Est & David A Perrault & Jean G Perrault/Jean Giles Perrault & Jon Christopher Perrault & Thomas S Perrault Jr & Perrault LP & Elizabeth Perrault Hooper Est & Abigale E Hooper & Amelia M Hooper , Mark & Laurie McCarthy, $720,000, 104-106 Railroad St

Judith Sarafian & Tracy Gardner, Joshua Palmieri & Andrea Birch, $713,000, 425 Broadway

Daniel J & Claire L'Italien, George Deglaoui, $705,323, 3 Whitney Ct

Wazlaw Family Revocable Trust & Robert F Wazlaw Tr & Pamela M Walsh-Wazlaw Tr, Noemi Santana, $700,000, 283 Pelham St

Scott E & Paula M Sullivan , Jordy Trigueroa & Jon Trigueroa, $675,000, 244 Lowell St

Aline Marchardo Lima, Julie & Haijin Yang, $639,000, 311 Pelham St

Ryan O'Toole, 1438 Broadway LLC, $625,000, Ayers Village Rd

Jeffrey S & Cheryl A Laurenza, Kristen & Marcus Ridgley, $615,000, 15 Vineyard Ln Unit 16

Kevin Kissinger Est & Eric Kissinger, Joel D Gonzalez Luna & Brunilda Cayo, $610,000, 28-30 Union St

Susan M Harrington , Fabiola De Leon Merida & Cristel De Leon Merida & Emilio Jonathan De Leon Rivera, $600,000, 33 Kimball Rd

Calrisse & Julio C Castilho, Sidney Da Costa Barcelos & Mirian Da Silva Maia Barcelos, $590,000, 29 Alvin St

Joshua McKinnon & Katherine E O'Neil, Emily Elizabeth Seifert & Christopher Jon Williams, $575,000, 15 Hampshire Rd Unit 4B

Joseph J & Jacquelyn R Tropiano, Caira E Jose Pujols & Gilberto Aneudy Castillo Medina, $570,000, 4 Field Ave

Samuel A & Laurie Fiorilla/Laurie Schena, Eliot Sykes & Ruth Arevalo, $565,000, 70 Adams Ave

Carlos O Robles Velazquez & Irayelitza Soto Ponce, Gladys M Zoria-Bano, $550,000, 111 Lowell St

Edward J & Ellen P Gaudiano, Tatiana DeJesus & Jessica Locke DeJesus, $545,000, 8 Field Ave

Karol & Jolanta Fankidejski, Emily J & Daniel Trainor, $516,000, 23 Duston Dr

Grace Dental & Medical Missions Inc, My Little Dream Learning Center II Inc, $499,900, 150 Cross St

A E Aznoian Realty Trust & Melanie S Aznoian Tr, Kevin Thomas Schrow & Anikary Grullon, $485,000, 14 Booth Rd

Douglas C & Darlene S Baker, Neitza Sierra-Diaz & Christopher German, $480,000, 15 Anthony St

Amanda Kirlis, Tatieli Borges Vidal Serafim, $480,000, 8 Francella Rd

Eileen Peate Tr & St Germain Realty Trust, Venus & Delice Emmanuel, $460,000, 14 Brandee Ln Unit 7

Tamara L Pelletier & Dolores A Pineau Est, W F Solutions LLC, $450,000, 83 Arnold St

Doris Lorraine Thibodeau Est & Thomas P Thibodeau & Judy F Keizl, Mayte Y & Marcos B Regalado, $449,900, 13 Caswell Ave

Paula J Cashman & Robyn L Cashman, John J Collins, $425,000, 16 Shirley Ave

Carol L Spooner, Jully Anayra Pichardo, $425,000, 45 Washington St Unit C11

Anthony Dellicolli Est & Debra DelliColli & Gina DelliColli/Gina Bousquet & Norma Grant, Jonathan & Megan Bousquet, $420,000, 35 Campbell St

Philip G Leavitt Tr & Cheryl A Leavitt Tr & Leavitt Realty Trust, Fernando Abrego & Elizabeth Gonzalez, $410,000, 1 Riverview Blv Unit 3-101

Melinda Mace, Jeffrey Fierimonte, $385,000, 21 Hampshire Rd Unit 313

Nicole C Lemay, Cathleen A Miranda, $380,000, 21 Oak St Unit 3

7 Stars Group LLC, An Ut Nguyen & Thrinh Tran, $375,000, 45 Washington St Unit 105

Turnerclem Associates LLC, Massachusetts Trustee LLC Tr & 23 Hazel Street Realty Trust, $365,000, 23 Hazel St

Matthew & Sarah Armano, Judith Sarafian Tr & Sarafian Revocable Realty Trust, $350,000, 45 Christopher Dr Unit 107

Alex & Ana M Perez, Celina Benitez, $350,000, 178 Merrimack St Unit 2

Katelyn C Sanzo & Junior A Vasquez, Monica Montoya, $340,000, 99 Pligrim Cir Unit 99

David Trahan Tr & 8 Agnes Terrace Realty Trust, Maroun & Mirna Bechara, $339,900, 45 Christopher Dr Unit 112

A Geraldine Caffrey, Kellie Caffrey & William Devine, $315,000, 36 Clinton St

Renato Silva , Danielle Lee Tortora, $310,000, 21 Hampshire Rd Unit 21-412

Eugene C & Danita B Scione, Shanrock Estates II LLC, $300,000, 1 Albermarle St

Grzejka Property Holding LLC, JK Dental Consultants PLLC, $300,000, 60 East St Unit 2500

Glenny Liranzo & Wilmer Castillo, Wendy Nazario, $249,000, 18 Constitution Wy Unit B

Ronald A Hebert Tr/ Rah Family 2008 Realty Trust, DBCC Re Trust LLC, $100,000, 502 Forest St.

NORTH ANDOVER

James F Pinho Tr & Kerri J Pinho Tr & Kerri J Pinho Living Trust & James F Pinho Living Trust, Hoang Huu Duy Nguyen Tr & Dove Holdings Realty Trust, $1,750,000, 198 Lancaster Rd

Terence P Dalton Tr & Kerry L Dalton Tr & Terence P Dalton Revocable Trust & Kerry L Revocable Trust, Valerie & Christopher Ryan, $1,425,035, 35 Avery Park Dr

Kevin C & Jill M Dean, Christine & Robert DiGiammarino, $1,400,000, 60 Sunset Rock Rd

Poorna Pavan Kumar Mutnuri & Sireesha Pendyala, Matthew & Ashley Hobbs, $1,300,000, 130 Windkist Farm Rd

Michael J & Elizabeth H Ensminger, Andrew W & Larissa A Milmore, $1,270,000, 252 Gray St

Kennedy Old Cart Way Trust & Nathan G Kennedy Tr & Katie Kennedy Tr, Brandon Collins & Brienna Tomlinson, $1,185,000, 42 Old Cart Wy

Lan Tuyet Truong Tr & David Irrevocable Trust, Lan Tuyet Tuong Tr/Tuyet Lan Truong Tr & Lucky Real Estate Trust, $1,000,000, 54 Kara Dr

James Williams , Danielle E Romeo & Nicholas Grasso, $985,000, 1542 Salem St

John D & Mary Ann Theriault , Ahmad Nourian Avval & Masumeh Kazemi Moghadam Beydokhti, $970,000, 102 Hillside Rd

Jeffrey W & Diane L Gwynne, Nicholas A & Alaina G Tassinari, $955,000, 254 Hickory Hill Rd

Thomas P & Melinda M Coppa, Leonard Robinson Jr, $926,000, 102 Lacy St

Lisa Anne Byron Tr & Hope Richards Minicucci Living Trust, Matthew & Amy K Rock, $925,000, 340 Johnson St

John T & Diane G O'Connor, Arpa Suchitta & Nicholas T Donovan, $875,000, 23 Willow Ridge Rd

Samuel G & Andrea W Wainwright, Christopher E & Emily J Luiszer, $860,000, 247B Farnum St

Anne C MacDonald & Elizabeth G MacDonald, Ryan J Cote & Amber Polia, $843,000, 125 Mifflin Dr

Elaine M Kirby, Kevin & Heather Cullen, $800,000, 911 Johnson St

Racquel & Gregory Bruton, Christine M McLaughlin & Nicholas D Reilly, $775,000, 369 Wood Ln

Pleasant Street Holdings LLC, Franklin & Giselle Caraballo/Gisselle Marmolejos, $773,000, 256-258 Turnpike St

Alexandra D Galante Tr & Richard S Galante Living Trust, Foresight Investment Inc, $770,000, 43 Phillips Common

Matthew B Levis, Armary LLC, $750,000, 7 Heath Rd

Miele Family Revocable Trust & Matthew Miele Tr, Thaer Hamdi, $740,000, 252 Winter St

Thomas E Keane & Marie C Dahlen Keane, Laksman Shapiro & Bridget Mercier, $732,000, 463 Johnson St

Joel S & Emily M Porten, Jessica K McCarthy, $725,000, 20 Dewey St

Daniel M & Amanda Conway, Cristian & Gleisiany Mihoc, $715,000, 755 Johnson St

Brenda J Scheipers Tr & Martha J Scheipers Irrevocable Family Trust, Allison DiBurro & Vincent Costanzo, $710,000, 266 Middlesex St

Vasiliy Molla Est & Ludmila Molla, Timothy P & Jean A Procopio, $699,000, 22-24 Saunders St

Paul A Roy Tr & Lucielle C Roy Tr & Roy 2010 Family Trust, Devon B & Michael P Taurone, $649,000, 1895 Salem St

Richard Byrne & Marianne C Byrne Est, Richard L Ballantyne Jr Tr & Brant F Ballantyne Tr & Robert Emens Tr & Richard Ballantyne Trust, $605,000, 1301 Basswood Cir

Nicole Marie Caron, Jo Chow-Guidaboni Tr & Jo Suk-Ying Chow-Guidoboni Revocable Trust, $600,000, 3 Alcott Way Unit 3

Arthur Guthrie, Michael Ronayne, $570,000, 24 Prescott St

Frances J Jennings Tr/Frances J Dodson Tr & Beech Circle Realty Trust, Ali Alkhalidi, $525,000, 46 Millpond

Alexander Blane III & Anisia Allen Blane, Kathryn Blair & Ian Y Falcon-Rivera, $522,000, 265 Sutton St

Kenneth J Campisi Tr & Campisi Family Realty Trust, Rodolfo T Silva & Laryssa Marques Silva, $517,000, 50 Elmwood St

Susan D Webster Tr/Susanne D Webster Tr & Thomas J Webster Tr & Webster Family Revocable Trust, Nicole C Lemay, $500,000, 15 Halifax St Unit A

Paul Kourkoulos, Jillian & James Buckley III, $465,000, 2 Harvest Dr Unit 309

Michele Christo, Sydney Weeks, $460,000, 1 Harvest Dr Unit 206

Jonathan J & Amy L White Trs & White Realty Trust, Steven Michael Gisinger & Kathleen Margaret Gisinger, $460,000, 62 Kingston St

350 Greene Street #203 Realty Trust & Kevin F Murphy Tr & Kathleen Hulme Tr, John D & Mary Ann Theriault, $460,000, 350 Greene St Unit 203

Deonte Frank R Dunn, Katherine M Pittsley & Cordero G Marrero, $440,000, 85 Beverly St Unit 85

David John Avery & Judith C Avery Est, AnnM Giles, $435,000, 350 Greene St Unit 109

Dorothy & Joseph Baillargeon, Erin E & Lawrence V Coughlin III, $425,000, 166-168 Water St Unit 1

Stephen P Brennan Tr & Virginia M Brennan Tr & Brennan Family Revocable Trust, Abdelnasser Zadieyh Arriaga & Kristina Copelas, $420,000, 3 Harvest Dr Unit 212

Mario & Dana Abdennour, Robert N & Jane Tremblay, $420,000, 148 Main St Unit F-542

Michele Wise, Sandra Terranova, $410,000, 350 Greene St Unit 204

Jeffrey N Rich & Lynne A Rich Tr & Forty Seven Village Green Drive Unit 38 Nominee Realty Trust, Victoria Angelesco & Patrick Hickey, $380,000, 47 Village Green Dr Unit 38

Muhammad B & Farida Malik, Humara Malik, $360,000, 101 Edgelawn Ave Unit 12

David Chiasson Jr & Catherine Shea-Chiasson, Joseph J Carrabino & Patricia A MacRae, $348,000, 28 Pleasant St Unit 2

Mary H Mansfield , Emily Dumas, $345,000, 5 Walker Rd Unit 5-11

Joanne C Rowen Tr & Joanne C Rowen Revocable Trust of March 13 2003, Mary F Lyons, $345,000, 148 Main St Unit K-421

Ramona R Terranova, Jamie Liann Abar & Tracy Karen Abar, $340,000, 148 Main St Unit A509

Natalia Cherbenok & Boris Gorovits, Azad Ibrahim, $337,500, 41 Farrwood Ave Unit 9

Cassandra K Kenney/Cassandra K Torenn & Veronica L Deltoro/Veronica L Torenn, Christine Thornton, $333,000, 85 Farrwood Ave Unit 2

Eric Teuber & Stephanie Serrentino, Sophie L Pangione, $330,000, 173 Main St Unit 6

Matthew Carrozza & Dean Joseph Carrozza Est/ Dean J Carrozza Est, Brenden Cronin, $330,000, 30 Fernview Ave Unit 30FV-6

HERO: FROM PAGE 1

eight miles east of Block Island, Rhode Island, resulting in the loss of her entire crew. Today, U-853 is a popular deep sea diving site. She rests in 121 feet of water. The Valley Patriot asked Bob about a memory of his time on the troop ships, he replied, “the food was excellent!”

Two of Bob’s three brothers also served in the US Army during the war, his third brother was too young. Like many of the men and women who served during the war, Bob left school after completing the 8th grade to work and help support his family. Despite war raging in both Europe and Asia, the United States was still in a deep economic depression, known to historians as the Great Depression. The men and women who fought and won World War II are now in their mid-90s or older, according to US Department of Veterans Affairs. Currently, only 119,550 of the 16.4 million Americans who served in World War II are alive as of 2023.

After serving in the army, he took advantage of the American Legion authored GI Bill. Earning a bachelor’s and master’s in education and becoming a teacher. For the rest of Bob’s life, he worked as a teacher or a social worker. He married his wife Anna, and the couple raised three children. The Valley Patriot had the pleasure of talking with his daughter Yvonne, who told us about Bob and Anna’s four grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Bob’s teaching career took him to several public and private schools throughout Massachusetts and New Hampshire. When asked what her favorite memory of her dad is, Yvonne quickly answered that “her dad built the family home in Pepperell, Massachusetts with his own hands.”

US Army Medic, teacher, carpenter, social worker, husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather Bob DuPont is a “Hero in our Midst”! Asked by the Valley Patriot if he had any needs? Bob immediately answered, “I’d like some of our younger Veterans to stop by, have coffee with me and visit for a while.” Veterans, that is your challenge from the Valley Patriot, call the facility, 978-685-2220, ask for Communications Director Gillian Mahoney, and make an appointment to have “coffee with a member of the Greatest Generation”, Bob DuPont! If you are grateful to be able to read this in English, rather than German, Italian, or Japanese? Bring some homemade cookies too!

The Merrimack Valley American Legion Posts ask all World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans to call (603) 518-5368 and sign up for an Honor Flight to the Memorials in Washington DC! The Valley Patriot staff asks Veterans of all eras, to go to the American Legion’s Web site www.legion.org, and join the American Legion. The American Legion’s mission is working with our Congress, our Nation’s Veterans, and our community, preserving our Veteran’s Benefits for future generations and serving all Veterans and their families.

John Cuddy served in the US Navy’s Construction Battalions (also known as the Seabees) after retiring from the US Navy; he earned a bachelor’s in history and a master’s in economics from the University of Massachusetts on the Lowell Campus. He has been employed in Logistics at FedEx for the last 28 years. If you know a World War II, Korean War, or Vietnam War Veteran who would like their story told, please email him at John.Cuddy@Yahoo.com ◊

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TV TALK with BILL CUSHING

"My Emmy Wish List"

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

The Primetime Emmy nominations will be announced on July 17th and every year I like to review the past year in TV and give my list of who I would like to see recognized. It's always tough to remember all the great work every year, and not everyone can be nominated. The actors that I mention here are the ones that people just might forget, not the ones that are shoo-ins for a nomination. So, here's my Emmy Wish List…

Hanna Einbender (Hacks) – 'Hacks' had arguably its best season this year, and Hannah Einbender is one of the reasons why. She gave a wonderful performance as Ava just getting better and better as the season went on. Her character really displayed a whole array of emotions this season. Ava experiences heartbreak, anger, vulnerability, and eventually arrogance and shines with every single one. She has always been overshadowed by the great Jean Smart, but not this year. This year it was her doing the overshadowing.

Ramon Rodriguez (Will Trent) -Week after week this season, Ramon Rodriguez's work as the title character of 'Will Trent' displayed how good of an actor he can be. Will's gradual revelation of his long dormant childhood trauma, the years of guilt that came pouring out of him as he remembered his part in the death of his foster mother and his emotional breakdown that followed left us riveted. Rodriguez deserves recognition for his work.

Ben Mendelsohn (The New Look) – An excellent, and underseen limited series about how Christian Dior, Coco Chanel and their contemporaries navigated the horrors of World War II and launched modern fashion, had some really excellent performances. None better than Mendelsohn as Dior. His work stood out among a stellar cast and deserves a nomination.

Daniel Oyelowo (Lawmen: Bass Reeves) – In the severely underrated 'Lawmen: Bass Reeves' Daniel Oyelowo played the first Black deputy US Marshal and was tasked with tracking down lots of outlaws that were also Black. His portrayal of Reeve's unease at this prospect while also trying to get home to his family safely at the end of every assignment was mesmerizing.

Brie Larson (Lessons in Chemistry) - It may seem odd that an Oscar winner could be forgotten at awards time, but that could be what is going to happen with Brie Larson and her incredible performance in 'Lessons in Chemistry.' Larson brought a lot of heart and soul to her role as Elizabeth Zott. It's clearly her best work since her Oscar winning work in the film 'Room.' The series aired 9 months ago though so it may not be fresh in voters' minds.

Walton Goggins (The Righteous Gemstones) – Walton Goggins has turned in some great work over the years. From his early work on 'The Shield' and 'Justified' through his comedic turns on shows like 'The Unicorn' and 'Vice Principals.' But his hilarious performance as evangelist Baby Billy Freeman might just be his best.

Kristen Wiig (Palm Royale) – Known primarily for her work on Saturday Night Live, Kristen Wiig turns in one of the best performances of the year with a great turn as an aspiring socialite in 1969 Palm Beach. With a cast that includes award winning actresses like Laura Dern, Allison Janney, and Carol Burnett, Wiig outshines them all. She should get a nomination.

Callum Turner (Masters of the Air) – Callum Turner's role as Bucky Egan in Apple's drama series about the hero fighter pilots of World War II, was the best in a whole cast full of great performances. He steals the show from Oscar nominees Austin Butler and Barry Keoghan, playing Egan with cockiness and defiance that then gets reshaped into a much more resigned and compassionate role as he watches many of his friends and comrades lose their lives in the war.

If you have any questions about TV, you can email me at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all of your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future Mailbag column. Follow me on Twitter and Instagram @BillsTVTalk and on Facebook at BillsTVTalk for daily up-to-the-minute TV news and discussion. ◊

Persona VS. Identity

Peter Larocque
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Greetings my friends and God Bless you all in the powerful name of our Lord Jesus Christ! There is certainly a lot going on in our world today, both in the world of non-followers of Jesus Christ and in the world of followers of Jesus Christ. According to Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." NLT. Jesus is our true compass and the real deal, so when we pray, we should not just pray for our present and future, but also that God would Heal our Past!

This brings me to this month's topic, Persona vs. Identity! Persona is defined as; a person, personae, the characters in a play, novel, etc. (in the psychology of C. G. Jung) the mask or façade presented to satisfy the demands of the situation or the environment and not representing the inner personality of the individual; the public personality. On the other side of the coin, we have our Identity, which is defined as the condition of being oneself or itself, and not another. According to David G. Benner's Book, The Gift of Being Yourself, (pg.99 Epilogue), he states, "Our persona is how we want others to see us. Our identity is how we see and understand ourselves. This continues to develop through life." (By the way, I highly recommend this book.)

Social media like Facebook, Instagram, and others fuel our persona and allow us to put on masks and make unrealistic photo-shopped profiles that are far from anything resembling our true selves. It gives us a false sense of security of having control of what we want others to see and know about us, we control the narrative! I know of people who have created entire accounts with false names, addresses, and dates all out of fear that someone might find out their real self. The truth is they have nothing to hide, they have done nothing wrong and yet, they make these false personas all because they are driven by FEAR!

Our Identity, as followers of Jesus, is the essence of who we are and this keeps developing over time as we grow in Christ. Jesus makes this statement in, Matthew 16:25-26, "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? NKJV.

We get our identity from Jesus and it develops in community, it is our gift to the world. We read in Isaiah 43:1, "But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine." NKJV. And, Isaiah 62:2, "The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, And all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, Which the mouth of the LORD will name." NKJV. The Gospel of John records these words from Jesus, John 10:3, "To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out." NKJV. Again, in John 10:27, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." NKJV. The name we receive from Jesus is our Identity!

There is a wonderful example in the gospels of someone who put forth a false self when she encountered Jesus and how Jesus reacted to her false persona. It is a story of a gentile woman, a non-Jew who came to Jesus asking for healing for her daughter, who came to him acting like she was Jewish. We know this because she called Jesus the Son of David, a name that is only used by Jewish people. The story unfolds in Matthew 15:22-28, "A Gentile woman who lived there came to him, pleading, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! For my daughter has a demon in her, and it is severely tormenting her."23 But Jesus gave her no reply, not even a word. Then his disciples urged him to send her away. "Tell her to leave," they said. "She is bothering us with all her begging." 24 Then he said to the woman, "I was sent only to help the people of Israel, God's lost sheep, not the Gentiles." 25 But she came and worshiped him and pleaded again, "Lord, help me!" 26 "It isn't right to take food from the children and throw it to the dogs, (young puppies)" he said. 27 "Yes, Lord," she replied, "but even dogs (young puppies) are permitted to eat crumbs that fall beneath their master's table." 28 "Woman," Jesus said to her, "your faith is great. Your request is granted." And her daughter was instantly healed." NLT.

Notice at first, Jesus did not answer her, sounds rude, doesn't it? But, no it is not. She was pretending to be a Jew a false persona, Jesus did not acknowledge her. Jesus only gets moved by the Truth and does not play these games. But when she got honest and dropped the act, Jesus responded to her and she received her request, the healing of her daughter.

This is how we should come to Him, Hebrews 4:16 tells us, "So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it." NLT. Jesus wants us to come boldly to Him, in our True Identity, and then we will receive Mercy and find Grace and the HELP we need!

Let us get rid of the lies, told to us by our Flesh, The World, and from Satan! Let us live in Community, in our True Identity, which is our Gift to the world! Ask Jesus, what name does He call you???

Much Love,
Peter Larocque
peterlarocque@hotmail.com ◊

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